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Near East & South Asia

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LD2508113988 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi and Iranian delegations arrived in Geneva for the opening of peace talks under UN auspices, INA and Tehran radio reported. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said on arrival that Iran has not put forward and will not accept any "preconditions for the talks," the radio reported.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in a predeparture statement cited by INA that Iraq will work "from the basis" of President Saddam Husayn's 6 August letter. He said the point of the "direct negotiations" in Geneva is to reach a "joint understanding" on the rest of the provisions of Resolution 598.

Iraq's "last attacks" on Iran destroyed a "huge" jet engine repair center, the clandestine Iran's Flag of Freedom radio disclosed.

The Iraqi oil tanker "'Ayn Zalah" carried the first shipment in 8 years of Iraqi crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz, INA announced.

Israel

The Foreign Ministry issued a communique rejecting U.S. criticism of the deportation policy, IDF radio reported. Israel "disagrees" with the U.S. "interpretation" of international law on deportations and Israeli policy will not change, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

An official said Israel's position was "made clear" during a meeting with the U.S. ambassador, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the radio that the U.S. criticism was not "taken lightly" but added that the Israeli action is "legal."

Five Lebanese "terrorists" were killed in a clash north of the security zone, Jerusalem radio reported. Six Israeli soldiers were injured while acting to "forestall hostile activity" against Israeli targets, military sources told the radio.

Security forces have detained five members of an Abu Nidal organization "terrorist squad" who "intended to assassinate" Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and journalist Hanna Sinyurah, MA'ARIV revealed.

The Shefar'am mayor's office was damaged by a Molotov cocktail 25 August, Jerusalem radio noted. Israel will continue "to stem the flow" of PLO funds into the occupied territories, despite Yasir 'Arafat's declaration that the PLO will pay the salaries of civil servants there, IDF and Jerusalem radios disclosed.

Lebanon

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in "violent clashes" as they advanced in western Al-Biqa', the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced. The Israeli troops reached the "outskirts" of Libbaya village, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio added.

An Israeli gunboat "traded fire" with Palestinian fighters in the Al-Rashidiyah camp, AFP disclosed.

Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss said his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad centered on ways to get Lebanon out of the current crisis and "repel the dangers threatening it," Beirut radio reported. He said Syrian leadership is "very willing to help at all levels," the radio added.

Robert Franjiyah said the "cessation of U.S.-Syrian negotiations" made it "no longer possible" to hold the presidential election within the constitutional period, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Franjiyah accused the United States of "changing its stand and going back on its commitments" and said "everything" is possible, including military "flareups" and Lebanon's partition.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said in an interview on Damascus television that the United States "intervened" with its "full powers" to disrupt the election as part of a U.S. battle "against Lebanese nationalism." Army commander General Michel 'Awn denied that troops were involved in obstructing the election and said deputies refused offers to escort them to the electoral session, Beirut radio reported. The Shi'ite Muslim Higher Council issued a statement on the election emphasizing that it will "adopt all measures" to block any settlement that could "keep Lebanese Muslims as second-class citizens," Voice of the Mountain radio announced.

Syria

The Soviet Government has refused to sell Syria a "new and improved prototype" of its "MiG-29 Fulcrum" fighter plane because Syrian pilots "failed to fully understand" how to operate the MiG-29, Kuwait's AL-QABAS revealed.

The Syrians destroyed two of its squadron of MiG-29's during air practice, AL-QABAS added.

President al-Asad received acting Lebanese Prime Minister al-Huss to discuss current developments in Lebanon, Damascus radio reported.

A People's Assembly delegation met in Beijing with PRC President Yang Shangkun, who stressed the "compatibility" of the two countries' stands on the "Middle East question," the radio disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO will now refer to the West Bank as the "Palestinian Bank" to indicate the PLO's "new role" in the occupied territories, according to a WAFA report cited by Amman's AL-DUSTUR.

The UAE's AL-ITTIHAD reported that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has "offered to host" a Palestinian government-in-exile and "promised to offer all needed facilities," KUNA disclosed.

A further report in the paper said Libya has officially invited all Palestinian factions to hold a "popular conference" in Tripoli 26-30 August, according to WAKH.

Afghanistan

"Certain mistakes" by the government, such as denying opposition groups a role in the political process, "prolonged and intensified" the conflict with the mujahidin, according to Prime Minister 'Abdul Wakil's remarks to journalists in Norway cited by Stockholm radio and AFP.

Four persons were killed and 15 wounded when a bus hit a mine planted by "subversive extremists" in Laghman Province, Kabul radio reported. Mujahidin have asked residents of Qandahar to evacuate the city ahead of a "final offensive" against government forces "likely" to be initiated this week, according to sources cited by AFP.

A 100-man group in Jowzjan Province surrendered its weapons to security forces and joined the national reconciliation program, Kabul radio announced.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Salah Khalaf on Provisional Government

AU2208193888 Vienna Television Service in German 1730 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Interview with PLO official Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, in Vienna on 22 August by Robert Wiesner—recorded; questions in German, Khalaf's answers in Arabic with German translation]

[Text] [Abu Iyad] Following King Husayn's decision, the PLO immediately assumed administrative, financial, and political responsibility for the West Bank. That will lead to the proclamation of a provisional government that the Palestinian National Council will decide on late in September after having held talks within the PLO and with friendly countries. This decision will be formulated in a way that will make it acceptable to the Palestinian people as well as to Israel.

[Wiesner] What does a proclamation of a provisional government acceptable to Israel mean? What measures do you plan to take and what offers are you going to submit to the Israelis?

[Abu Iyad] The basis for our policy will be the 1947 UN Resolution 181, which was the basis of the founding of the State of Israel. A second part of this resolution has not been implemented—the founding of a Palestinian state. We will refer to this resolution and we cannot imagine Israel rejecting that, because otherwise it would also have to call its own existence into question.

[Wiesner] Is that the ultimate goal or is it just a springboard for a major goal—that of getting a larger territory under Palestinian control, as is being suspected in Israel?

[Abu Iyad] I will accept the borders that will be defined by an international peace conference. Whatever territory we get, we will respect these borders.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas on Palestinian State

NC2408145288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, has stressed that a provisional Palestinian government-in-exile will be declared during the coming extraordinary session of the PNC.

He said the resistance group members of the PLO do not object to a government-in-exile, but have not yet reached the formula that would bring into being this government and its political program, which must be, according to him, a realistic one which the world, and consequently the world that rejects us, cannot ignore.

The Palestinian official added that Jerusalem will be the official seat [maqarr] for the Palestinian government-in-exile, but its temporary seat will be any Arab country that offers to host it. He noted that Tunis might be a temporary seat for this government because of the presence there of the PLO's political leadership.

In an interview with the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published in its Friday's edition, Abu Mazin said the establishment of a Palestinian government is in fact no more than dotting the i's and a speeding up of the peace process, and not as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said, that is, that the Palestinians have avoided taking the decisive step toward peace.

The Palestinian official noted that if negotiations are held at an international conference for peace in the Middle East, they will be between governments and the time has come for Palestinians to form their own government.

Regarding the results of the Palestinian delegation's talks in Cairo and its meeting with President Mubarak, Abu Mazin said: President Mubarak wholly welcomed the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government. He encouraged us and expressed Egypt's willingness to place all its potentials, resources, cadres, and information at the disposal of the PLO to implement this notion. He noted here that Palestinian and Egyptian consultations in fact started to implement this notion during the Palestinian delegation's stay in Cairo.

Regarding Jordan's stand, the PLO Executive Committee member said Jordan stressed very clearly to the Palestinian delegation that visited Amman recently that it will be the first to recognize the Palestinian government or state when declared. He noted there are constant consultations on this issue with all the Arab countries.

Regarding the Syrian stand, Abu Mazin said: We do not pay much attention to Syria's view because it is seizing every opportunity to declare it is against the Palestinian government-in-exile.

He stressed that all past experiences have proved Syria can never absorb the Palestinian card, not through control of our positions in Lebanon, not through control of the PLO, and not through the accentuation of dissidence in the Palestinian arena.

He added the Palestinian card can never be in the pocket of Syria or any other Arab country, but will stay in the pocket of the Palestinian people who are clearly and freely expressing their hopes, ambitions, and rights. Regarding the question of Palestinian representation in light of King Husayn's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, Abu Mazin told AL-MUSAWWAR: Jordan is not looking at present toward representing the Palestinians or participating in their representation, thus opening the way for the PLO.

However, he stressed at the same time Jordan will be an active partner in the international peace conference because it is a state that has, like Lebanon and Syria, borders with Israel. He stressed the PLO's desire to coordinate with Jordan and all the other Arab parties.

He added: We are still committed to our declaration that we will go to the international conference with an independent Palestinian delegation or a joint Arab delegation.

Regarding the scope of Palestinian-Jordanian relations at the current and future stages, Abu Mazin said: There is no tension between us and King Husayn. He added the two sides drew up the bases for a new relationship at their recent talks.

He said: We will build on this relationship, God willing, after the establishment of our independent state by setting up a confederation between us and Jordan. He stressed it is impossible to separate the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Asked whether PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will declare an independent Palestinian state on the basis of the UN partition resolution of 1947 in his speech before the European Parliament in mid-September, Abu Mazin said:

I think the Palestinian political steps we are talking about now, whether that of a provisional government or an independent Palestinian state, will be taken once they are agreed upon at the PNC and not before this, unless otherwise agreed on by the Palestinian leadership. This leadership is now busy sutdying the matter and there are several legal and political committees working in that direction. Once they complete their work and reach an agreement, their decision could be declared at any time and not necessarily at the PNC.

Asked whether the Palestinian tendency toward declaring a Palestinian state in accordance with the partition resolution means the abandonment of the Palestinian dream for a secular state, Abu Mazin said:

We have not abandoned the idea of coexistence in a democratic and secular state. We still adhere to it and will continue to do so even after our state is established, but we will struggle for it by peaceful means. We will use all the humane means in our struggle, because we believe this is the best and final solution for both the Arabs and Jews to live together in one unified state, as they used to do in the various Arab countries and as they could in the future.

Regarding 'Arafat's expected visit to Amman, Abu Mazin said at the end of the interview: The invitation to Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to visit Jordan is still open. An appropriate time for it will be arranged; it could be made prior to the PNC emergency session.

PLO: West Bank Now Called 'Palestinian Bank'

JN2508072688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Tunis, (REUTER)—The PLO has begun using the term "the Palestinian Bank" instead of "the West Bank." The change aims at indicating that the PLO has begun a new role in the occupied territories.

The new term appeared in dispatches by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA.

A WAFA official told REUTER yesterday that the change was a reflection of the PLO's decision to take over responsibility of the bank.

He said it was named the Palestinian Bank yesterday because now there is no other bank.

Egypt

Mubarak Holds News Conference at Youth Camp

Comments on Press Freedom

NC2408151588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that all the development and construction efforts in Egypt ultimately aim to serve the interests of the young. He noted that development is a battle that we must wage for a better future, and therefore we have to maintain stability in all fields so that the development process might be steered down the right path.

Mubarak's remarks came during a meeting with a group of youth at the Abu Qir Youth Camp in Alexandria this morning. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said.

President Mubarak also affirmed that development and construction represent our goal, so Egypt can creat more job opportunities for the young, and noted the need for stability and satisfaction on the social, psychological, and security levels. The president pointed out that Egypt is in dire need of security and stability so that an appropriate atmosphere for development, investment, and construction might be created, and so that Egyptian, Arab, and foreign capital might be safeguarded and employed to benefit the entire society. He explained that throughout history, it has become clear that the influx and utilization of capital in any country depends on the extent of stability it could maintain.

In this respect, the president noted that some foreign powers try from time to time to distort the image of stability in Egypt and to take advantage of some signs of fanaticism in order to affect development negatively and cause a recession in tourism. They do this out of certain economic and political interests, he added. Therefore, the president said, our young must be aware of this fact and do their best to maintain stability and confront fanaticism.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that the president then explained the decision-making process in Egypt, with respect to both foreign and domestic policies. Mubarak pointed out that decision-making in Egypt is governed by an accurate assessment of the situation, by placing the people's interests at top priority, taking the country's circumstances into consideration, and safeguarding its present and future dignity.

The president called on all political powers in Egypt to keep these facts in mind and to give the decision-maker—that is, the national leadership duly elected by the people of their own free will—the chance to handle matters in light of the clear-cut and comprehensive picture available to it. He appealed to these powers to direct all efforts toward serving the people's interests and averting disputes. He affirmed Egypt's eagerness to establish good and positive relations with all countries, particularly the fraternal Arab countries.

In his talk about democracy, President Mubarak dealt with freedom of the press. He noted that this freedom has no precedent in the past or in the region, and stressed that it has surpassed all limits at times.

President Mubarak here strongly denounced an Egyptian paper—which has limited distribution, is not a national paper, does not belong to any political party, and has no clear identity—for publishing an article that abused a fraternal Arab Islamic country which has backed and stood by Egypt. He said that this paper published the article without taking into consideration any values or responsibility and without caring about Egypt's higher or national interests.

The president called on the Union of Journalists, the Higher Press Council, all the responsible departments, and even Egypt's writers, regardless of their views and national affiliations, to confront all the irresponsible invectives. He stressed how important it was for them to take a stand against any publication that harms the national interest and Arab and international relations, and any publication that aims to damage the national economy and security or to defame and insult.

The president noted that this is the responsibility of these organs and even of all of society. Egypt is not the country of the ruler but the homeland of all Egyptians, and this is the responsibility of all Egyptians and all those who live on its soil, he added.

President Mubarak said that freedom does not mean to confuse public opinion or to publish false reports. He noted that the reports about cabinet reshuffles are totally without foundation. He added: The partisan press in Egypt is leaning toward objectivity and I wish it more objectivity under the umbrella of freedom of opinion and hope that it will continue to treat some of the unnecessary transgressions.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak then replied to questions asked by the youths. He answered their queries on domestic policy, which included the emergency laws, issues concerning the national economy, and education. The president also answered questions on foreign Arab and international issues.

Views Palestinian Issue

NC2408162188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] President Mubarak spoke to reporters following his meeting with a group of young people today. In his statement, Mubarak stressed that Egypt's youth represent the country's future and that they are thus required

to work hard, to disregard rumors and determine the facts, and to contribute to all the constructive efforts that serve their interests and those of the generations to come.

In response to a question on the forthcoming visit to Egypt by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the president said that the king always appreciates Egypt and does not hesitate to stand beside it at all times. he added that no date has yet been fixed for his visit, noting that it is expected to be made in October or November. He said Egypt welcomes him both as the king of Saudi Arabia and as a person who has constructive views. He also noted that the custodian of the two holy mosques harbors love and appreciation for Egypt because he knows what Egypt stands for.

To another question concerning his expectations for the Palestinian issue in the coming stage, particularly following his meeting with a PLO delegation, President Mubarak said: There was understanding during our meeting with the delegation members. We gave them the kind of advice that would make it easier for them to pursue the correct path so that the Palestinian issue might remain in the limelight, the tension end, and the road leading to the final solution be paved.

Asked about the role Egypt could play to make progress in the Palestinian issue, the president said: We use our relations with the United States and Israel and any other country to the benefit of the Palestinian cause. Egypt did not and will not hesitate to play this role as long as it serves the legitimate rights, he added. The president noted that Egypt is making sincere efforts to reach a just solution to the Palestinian issue, although it does not publicize these efforts.

On Libya, Syria

NC2408154288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today reiterated that Egypt—its people and leadership—harbors all appreciation and gratitude to the brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. The president's remarks followed a question raised by members at the youth camp in Abu Qir in Alexandria today.

To a question about Egypt's aid to Sudan to confront the effects of recent floods, President Mubarak said that Egypt does not hesitate to support Sudan, and he noted the special relations that bind the two countries.

According to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt unwaveringly took the initiative and erected an air bridge and that Egypt will continue to give every means of support to the fraternal people of Sudan. President Mubarak urged the fraternal Arab countries to continue their aid to Sudan, and in this regard lauded the initiatives embarked upon by Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Asked how Israel would react to the arbitration decision on the Tabah issue, President Mubarak said that as long as Israel has accepted and signed the agreement it will abide by it. He added: I do not believe Israel will refuse to implement the decision, even if it turns out to be in Egypt's favor. However, there is no need to anticipate events.

On the Egyptian prisoners in Iran, President Mubarak said that this issue will be treated as part of the exchange of prisoners between Iran and Iraq.

Asked to comment on the effect of the special relations between the United States and Egypt in Egypt's relations with the nonaligned countries, the president asserted: Our special relations with the United States do not effect our relations with either the nonaligned states or the Soviet Union.

Responding to a question, President Mubarak said that under no circumstances would he lease or cede any Egyptian land, or allow the construction of military bases in Egypt, as a way to contribute toward solving its economic crisis. The president went on to say: Egypt will absolutely not relinquish its sovereignty because all those states which took upon themselves to achieve progress have suffered from deprivation in order to ride out their economic crises. The president reiterated that Egypt does not sell and will not sell, it does not give concessions and will not give concessions. Egypt will achieve development with its own will power and will forge ahead toward attaining a better future.

To a question about the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile, President Mubarak said: We want the PLO's decision to be meticulous and calculated so that the Palestinian cause will gain the support of the world public.

Asked how serious the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran is and whether this agreement could be used only for the sake of reorganization purposes, President Mubarak said that the direct negotiations to which Iraq adhered are the guarantees toward achieving a serious peace between the two countries.

To a question on the Libyan and Syrian hostile statements, Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt does not stoop to vituperations. In this regard, the president mentioned the mediation efforts made by the Arab brothers to mend the rift between Egypt and Libya and stated that Egypt will not open its land borders with Libya. He noted, however, that there are no problems with the Libyan people.

'Abd al-Majid Welcomes Gulf Peace Negotiations

NC2508121588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that Egypt welcomes the beginning of direct talks between Iraq and Iran in Geneva today. He added that Egypt hopes both warring countries will arrive at a formula which will end all military operations and achieve a just settlement of all problems which resulted in the armed conflict, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that Egypt looks forward to the establishment of peace between Iraq and Iran, so that both peoples may dedicate all their resources to reconstructing what has been destroyed by war and reestablishing peace and stability in that vital part of the world.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also praised the efforts exerted by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, saying that these helped facilitate negotiations.

Carter Meets Palestinians; Ghali Comments

JN2408113888 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Aug 88 pp 3, 20

[Exclusive report]

[Text] Cairo—Informed political sources in Cairo have revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that during a meeting between them in Alexandria, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak asked former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to exert his efforts with the U.S. Administration to end the stalemate in the Middle East crisis, and to begin this step by arranging a direct U.S.-Palestinian meeting through which the U.S. Administration would acquaint itself with the Palestinian viewpoint.

The same sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Hani al-Hasan has informed Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, that the PLO fully understands Egypt's strategy during the coming stage and that it agrees on the continuation of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue in the interest of the Palestine question—a strategy which is based on several basic elements. The most important of these elements is Egypt's action through its diplomatic relations with Israel to prevent it from carrying out any suspect action against the provisional Palestinian government in case it is announced, and that Cairo should embark on an international move to gain recognition of the Palestinian government when it is announced.

This would be accompanied by Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to be agreed upon in light of the current contacts to settle differences between Jordan and the PLO on some issues that have not yet been settled. The most important of these issues is the issue of Jordanian citizenship to Palestinians in the East Bank, and joint coordination on the international level to recognize the provisional Palestinian government within the framework of action to hold the international conference.

Hani al-Hasan and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, left Cairo yesterday for Tunis to submit a report to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat on their meeting with the former U.S. president.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Carter was concerned to hear an explanation by Al-Hasan and Kamal on the PLO's views of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Commenting on the meeting, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali told Al-ITTIHAD that such a meeting is bound to strengthen ties between the Americans and the Palestinians. He said that repetition of such a meeting will bring us closer to a settlement of the Palestine question.

Ghali also criticized Israeli measures in the occupied territories. He stressed that Egypt strongly denounces and condemns these measures. He added that the policy of imprisonment, deportation, and detention of Palestinians threatens peace in the region and further increases difficulties of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question. In addition, it conflicts with the principles of international law, the Geneva Convention, and human rights. He added that Tabah is not the cause of the lukewarmness marking Egyptian-Israeli relations, but the arbitrary measures adopted by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people.

He pointed out that there is a cold peace between Egypt and Israel at present and that although contacts between the two sides are limited we were able to extend material aid to the Palestinian people and we are extending political aid to them to enable them to exercise their right to self-determination.

Regarding his viewpoint on the government-in-exile as an alternative to fill the vacuum resulting from Jordan's recent step, Dr Ghali said: An action is necessary on all levels as well as the international community's support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The participation of the United States, the USSR, France, Britain, the PRC, the EEC, the Nonaligned Movement, and Latin America, the mobilization of world public opinion, and the support of all peace-loving states is also necessary to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights. He stressed that Egypt will support any PLO decision that will help bolster the Palestinian position and regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

4 Power Stations Under Construction in Cairo

JN2508102188 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Electricity and Energy Minister Eng Mahir Abazah has said four power stations are being built in Dumyat, in southern Cairo, in Shubra al-Khaymah, and

in 'Ataqah. They have a total capacity of 1,650 megawatts, the same as that of the High Dam. The four power stations will be operative next July.

In AL-AHRAM's seminar on the Nile floods and the new water year, the minister added that construction of these power stations will take only 14 months. This is a short period as compared to world standards. The stations aim to prevent a lapse into darkness should the Nile water level drop or the High Dam power station become inoperative. This has more economic feasibility than building a power station worth 5 billion pounds which will only work if the Nile water level drops to 148 meters.

During the seminar, officials said that arable land in Egypt is not 5.8 million feddans as reported but exceeds 6.5 million feddans. Eng 'Isam Radi, minister of works and water resources, will soon announce the correct figures once studies are completed in this regard.

Libya

Palestinians Invited to 'Popular Conference'

JN2508074988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Aug (WAKH)—Palestinian sources have said Libya has officially invited all Palestinian factions to hold a Palestinian popular conference in Tripoli, Libya, from 26-30 August.

Today's issue of the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cites these sources as saying Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, Libyan forces commander in chief, sent urgent messages to PLO and Palestinian faction leaders to attend this conference. The conference will discuss three major points: Palestinian unity, supporting the uprising, and political developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

Kazakh Official Arrives for Celebrations

LD2508101988 Tripoli JANA in English 0814 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Eric Sibinau [name as received], vice-premier of Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, and his accompanying delegation have arrived in Tripoli on a visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah to both conduct the cultural week organized by the Libyan Arab-Soviet Friendship Society and participate in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people in the 19th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Mauritania

Information Minister Returns From Baghdad

LD2408220488 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Minister of Information Mohamed Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba and [name indistinct], counsellor and CMSN member, returned to Nouakchott from Baghdad yesterday evening. Mohamed Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba and [name indistinct] delivered a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during their stay in Baghdad.

Briefs

Cooperation With Libya

Tripoli, 17 Aug, JANA—The minutes of the 11th session of the Libyan Arab-Mauritanian Joint Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which convened from the 11th to the 13th of this month, were signed over the past 2 days in Nouakchott. The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade and the Mauritanian minister of economy and finance. The minutes include the strengthening of cooperation in the fields of economy, agriculture, youth, information, health, social affairs, and transportation. [Text] [*LD1808002388 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Aug 88*]

Sudan

British Spokesman Rejects Ahmad Aid Criticism

LD2508093088 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0745 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Sudanese claims that Britain was not doing enough to help Khartoum's flood victims were rejected in London today.

The Sudan Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad accused Britain of sending only one plane with supplies, but the Overseas Development Administration said today the government had sent several plane-loads of aid and had donated 1 million pounds to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. And a spokesman stressed it was not the government that had criticised the Sudanese for their handling of the aid programme. He said Mr Ahmad had "failed to distinguish between the government and comments made in British newspapers".

Mr Ahmad has imposed censorship on foreign journalists following criticism abroad of the Sudan Government's handling of aid. Some reports quoting foreign diplomats and relief officials have said not enough of the aid sent has reached the 1.3 million refugees in shanty towns ringing the capital. Other reports have accused the Army, in control of relief operations, of diverting some supplies for its own use.

Mr Ahmad said yesterday Arab countries had provided 90 percent of the 248 plane-loads of relief supplies to arrive so far, and added: "How many planes came from Britain? One, while Saudi Arabia sent us 126."

Sudan appealed for urgent international aid after floods caused by torrential rains hit Khartoum early this month. More than a third of the capital's four million people lost their homes in the floods.

New Ethiopian Envoy Interviewed on Ties
PM1908104388 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Aug 88 p 11

[Interview with Ethiopian Ambassador Feleke Tabor by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Hisham] How did relations between the two countries return to normal in terms of diplomatic representation?

[Tabor] People think that the relationship between Ethiopia and Sudan has ended. But this is untrue. Relations existed and still exist. Relations between the two peoples are both historic and immortal. The existence of some problems will not lead to a deterioration in relations. Proof of this is the fact that I have been appointed by President Mengistu Haile Mariam as ambassador and plenipotentiary to Sudan.

[Hisham] What does your appointment at this particular time mean?

[Tabor] My appointment at this particular time reflects the good intentions of the Ethiopians and their desire to improve relations with the Sudanese Government and people. And if this encounters good intentions, the outcome will be a good one. But if the opposite were to be the case, one hand cannot clap on its own.

[Hisham] There is a lack of trust in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. How will you overcome this?

[Tabor] Present relations between the two countries are improving. But we see that it is essential that there be trust between the two governments. For its part, Ethiopia has not taken a hostile stand toward Sudan. Nor has it ever helped any of the circles trying to secede from Sudan. And we will not help anyone carry out such an act. On this basis, Ethiopia asks its neighbors to respect its unity.

[Hisham] And do you believe that the Sudanese Government adopts a different stand to this?

[Tabor] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government has repeatedly emphasized that it does not help the separatists in Ethiopia. It has also emphasized that it would translate this into practice, which proves to us that it seeks to improve relations. During his meeting with President Mengistu Mariam, Al-Mahdi discussed problems between the two countries and ways of improving relations. But as you know there are many sensitive areas between the two countries. Ethiopia has done what it has been asked to do in this regard and expects Sudan to do the same thing.

[Hisham] Is the improvement in relations the result of bilateral moves or foreign mediation?

[Tabor] Whether it was Egypt or other African states which played a positive role in this regard, all African diplomats I met with in Khartoum after my appointment as ambassador talked of the need to improve Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. The problem concerns Sudan and Ethiopia; they must make a positive move to settle it.

[Hisham] What is Ethiopia's stand on the initiative Sudan intends to propose for mediation between Ethiopia and the Eritrean movements?

[Tabor] I do not want to go into details. But as Sudan is a fraternal neighboring country, the Ethiopians welcome and respect the initiatives it makes. But we cannot talk about a specific initiative Sudan has made.

[Hisham] Has Sudan asked Ethiopia to help in the conflict under way in southern Sudan?

[Tabor] In their endeavors to improve relations between the two countries Sudan and Ethiopia are discussing the obstacles that have hampered relations. And negotiations will deal with all aspects to eliminate problems.

[Hisham] What are the obstacles facing the normalization of relations between the two countries?

[Tabor] What threatens relations is interference in the affairs of others and nonimplementation of international and regional charters and bilateral agreements, in addition to lack of trust, the instability of authority, and exploitation of contradictions in a negative way. Despite all this, relations are still strong, especially between the two peoples.

[Hisham] There is similarity between the Eritean problem and the southern Sudan problem.

[Tabor] They are similar in their domestic nature.

[Hisham] Do you believe that attempts being made to resolve the two problems are a kind of bartering?

[Tabor] No comment.

[Hisham] Is the Ethiopian Government ready to negotiate?

[Tabor] The Ethiopian Government believes that arms are not the ideal means to resolve the problem, but it has no other option. Despite this it is working toward resolving the problem peacefully.

[Hisham] What is your reply to Sudan's accusation that Ethiopia provides refuge for the rebel movement (Garang) on its territory and assists it?

[Tabor] The question is not who is helping whom. Our relations are family relations. That is why at a time of trouble some turn to neighboring countries. This creates problems for the host state whose duty it is to help refugees on a humanitarian basis, but without interfering in the internal affairs of the other state. And if it so happened that Ethiopia provided any help, this must be seen from that angle; it is aid provided to Sudanese people, whether from the north or the south. That is why we have emphasized that we have never sheltered forces seeking to secede from Sudan. This is at a time when we see that there are some quarters seeking to see Ethiopia both fragmented and weak.

[Hisham] What is the truth about Ethiopian deployments on the borders with Sudan?

[Tabor] There is no border dispute between Sudan and Ethiopia. Nor are there any expansionist intentions on their part. But according to what I said earlier, sensitivities resulting from a lack of trust cause some tension from time to time. And surely such tension and sensitivities can be eliminated.

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah, Hammadi Return From Beijing

LD2408162388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 24 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir accompanied by Iraq's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Sa'dun Hammadi returned here Wednesday afternoon from Beijing after representing the Arab seven-man ministerial committee assigned with following up developments of Iran-Iraq war. Shaykh Sabah told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY on arrival that he and Dr Hammadi have discussed with the Chinese officials the situation in the Gulf region, particularly following the recent positive developments toward the hoped-for peace.

Shaykh Sabah also said he and Hammadi conveyed to the Chinese officials the keeness of the Arab countries on the continuation of the Chinese constructive role in bolstering the peace process and toward reaching permanent and just agreement between Iran and Iraq. He added that "we affirmed to them our readiness to work together within the framework of the Security Council Resolution 598 in order to boost peace chances which we hope for this vital region and in a way that realizes security and stability for its inhabitants."

Shaykh Sabah expressed appreciation for the satisfaction conveyed by the Chinese officials toward the recent positive developments and their readiness to do whatever is needed for effective implementation of Resolution 598 in a way that leads to a comprehensive and just agreement between the two neighboring Moslem countries.

Shaykh Sabah and Dr Hammadi were received on arrival by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait, the Chinese charge d'affaires here and ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Iraq's Hammadi Departs

LD2408203688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1931 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text], Aug 24 (KUNA)—Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Sa'dun Hammadi left here tonight after a short stop-over in Kuwait. Dr Hammadi participated in the delegation of the Arab seven-man committee assigned with following up developments of the Iran-Iraq war which was headed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir in the visit to Beijing.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Dr Hammadi and the accompanying delegations arrived here Wednesday afternoon from the Chinese capital.

Briefs

Agreement With Egypt

Cairo, Aug 19 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Egypt have signed into effect agreements to boost cooperation between their national cooperative movements. This was the outcome of fruitful talks which president of the Kuwait Cooperative Movement, Barrak Alnun [name as received], had with senior Egyptian officials including deputy premier and minister of agriculture and land reclamation Dr. Yusuf Wali during a week-long visit to Egypt. Alnun told KUNA that the protocol, which he signed with the Egyptian Agricultural Cooperative Movement, covers the exchange of expertise, official visit and training programs between the two sides. He indicated that the Egyptian Agrigultural Cooperative Movement would loan instructors from Egypt's international center for agriculture to the Kuwait Agricultural Cooperatives Union. Alnun said the two sides decided to undertake joint economic ventures in animal husbandry, agriculture and land reclamation. [Text] [*LD2008064888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0913 GMT 19 Aug 88*]

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Yemeni Unity, Arab Issues

JN2508113288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Aug 88 p 14

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali by Mahbub 'Ali—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ali] What are the foreign policy features of the two parts of the Yemeni homeland after Sanaa's unity summit? To what extent do the summit's joint agreements affect and reflect Yemeni diplomacy?

[Al-Dali] The recent Sanaa summit of unity between Brother 'Ali Salim al- Bid, YSP secretary general, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was an advanced step toward unity between the two parts of the homeland. The summit agreements opened wider prospects for joint coordination between the leaderships of the two parts, not only with regard to unity projects but also with regard to coordinating the stands of the two parts on various Arab, regional, and international issues—especially since both parts of Yemen are eager to strengthen stability and security in the region and are contribute to international efforts to eliminate tension and create peaceful climates in the relations between nations of different social systems.

This policy is highly appreciated and welcomed by brothers and friends alike. The leaderships of the two parts believe that only peaceful circumstances can create opportunities to promote international relations. The foreign policies of both parts of the homeland are consolidated daily through joint cooperation on all levels. The recent summit's agreements will promote this coordination of the two parts' foreign policies.

['Ali] The Arab and international welcome of the Sanaa summit's agreement strengthened conviction of the importance of a unified Yemen. Do you feel that domestic and foreign events demand advanced steps, not just coordination?

[Al-Dali] Every step we make falls within the framework of our noble goal to restore the unity of the Yemeni people and land. The efforts of the two parts' leaderships fall within this unity action. We feel current events provide more opportunities to push for unity and achieve tangible gains that constitute firm bases for Yemeni unity. On this basis, dialogues and meetings between the leaderships of the two parts on all levels are continuous, rapid, and constructive. They aim to achieve our people's great goal of restoring the unity of the homeland through peaceful and democratic means.

['Ali] The establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile occupies a pre-eminent position. Do you support the idea of such a government?

[Al-Dali] Our stand on the Palestinian question, the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, and the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians—is firm, principled, and irrevocable. We support the Palestinian decision and option and back the Palestinian right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. Thus, we support the Palestinian option if it reflects Palestinian unanimity in the upcoming PNC meeting to establish a Palestinian government-in-exile. [passage omitted]

['Ali] What is the importance of the upcoming visit to Oman by PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and when will the visit take place?

[Al-Dali] Relations between the PDRY and Oman are fraternal and characterized by constructive cooperation. They have improved since the establishment of diplomatic relations and exchange of embassies. Officials of all levels exchange visits to promote brotherly relations between the two countries. Thus, the upcoming visit to Oman by President al-'Attas, scheduled for October, is important because it will give the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries an impetus toward progress. [passage omitted]

Cuban Interior Ministry Official Sees Al-Bid

EA2408162488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, met in his office this afternoon Comrade Major General Fabian Escalante Font, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, deputy interior minister, and director of the Political Department, and his delegation.

At the beginning of the meeting, the brother secretary general welcomed Maj Gen Fabian, praising such valuable visits that benefit the two friendly countries. He called for the continued development of relations between the Interior Ministries of the two friendly countries. The brother secretary general affirmed that Democratic Yemen has been much inspired by the Cuban experiment (?because of the) similarity of the special characteristics and circumstances between the two revolutions.

The brother secretary general praised the support of the socialist countries, among them socialist Cuba which helped our country overcome the effects of the 13 January conspiracy. He called for concerted efforts to support peace and progress in the world. [passage omitted]

For his part, Comrade Fabian expressed great pleasure at the friendly reception and appreciation accorded him which made him feel he was in his second country. He expressed pleasure at the results of this high-level visit, the first of its kind between the Interior Ministries in the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Calls Talks 'Useful,' Leaves

EA2408131188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Comrade Major General Fabian Escalante Font, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, deputy minister of interior and director of the Central Political Directorate, left Aden this evening after a visit to Democratic Yemen which lasted several days.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Fabian described the talks with his comrades in the leadership of the Interior Ministry as useful and positive and said that they opened a new avenue for continuously renewed and strenghened cooperation. He said he learned of the work methods and experience of the comrades in the Interior Ministry and briefed them on Cuba's experience in this field. He expressed conviction that the Yemeni revolution would never be defeated and that the two countries were fighting together to overcome the common enemy, despite the distances separating them.

He was seen off by Brother Colonel Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of interior; Hasan Husayn, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of state security; and other senior Interior Ministry officials.

Tariq 'Aziz Participates in Geneva Negotiations

Makes Predeparture Statement

JN2408143588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—In a predeparture statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the Iraqi delegation is leaving for Geneva to participate in direct negotiations with the Iranian side. The negotiations are under the auspices of the UN secretary general on the basis of the agreement reached between the Iraqi and Iranian Governments and according to the UN secretary general's letter to Iraq and Iran on 8 August 1988 specifying that the purpose of direct negotiations is to reach a joint understanding on the rest of the provisions of Resolution No 598—as well as the procedures and dates of its implementation. He added: In the negotiations due to begin tomorrow, we will work from the basis specified by President Saddam Husayn in his historic letter of 6 August—the letter that constituted a historic juncture in the entire situation and made it possible to implement the cease-fire that went into effect on 20 August.

He said: Those throughout the world who are fair have admitted this fact. Victorious Iraq, which defeated the schemes of Iranian aggression, expansion, and occupation through its military victories, announced on 6 August through its leader, its readiness to embark on peace.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz indicated that this stand is in line with Iraq's constant position since Iran began its aggression against it before and after 4 September 1980. Iraq has always called for peace and for resolving all problems with Iran through peaceful means regardless of the military balance on the front.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Maybe many wonder about the future of the direct negotiations that will begin tomorrow. The answer to this question depends on the reality of the Iranian stand. Iraq's stand is clear, constant, and historical. However, Iran's true stand remains unclear. When they accepted Resolution No 598, they expressed contradictory stands, the majority of which do not reflect a belief in a just and comprehensive peace.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that the international community and the United Nations in particular should exert their utmost efforts to ascertain the reality of the Iranian stand and make Iran understand that Resolution No 598 is to end the dispute and establish peace between the two countries and in the area.

He said a comprehensive and durable peace between the two countries and in the area has its rules and procedures in all fields. He said it is not sufficient to announce acceptance of Resolution No 598 since there must be consistent and comprehensive behavior in line with the principle of peace. He said the Iranians must prove goodwill—if they have any—by relinquishing their hollow slogans, false claims, and pretexts, which they have used for 8 years to continue war and aggression. He said this is the path toward achieving peace.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that Iraq's stand is principled, clear, constant, and firm because it stems from and is based on truth and the reality of the Iraqi triumph, which has been the prelude to peace.

Tariq 'Aziz was seen off at the airport by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister.

Arrives in Geneva

JN2408165388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 24 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here this afternoon to head the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran which will begin tomorrow at the Palais des Nations under the auspices of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Makes Arrival Statement

JN2408184788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1757 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 24 Aug (INA)—In a statement to the press at Geneva airport Tariq 'Aziz said: We are here for direct negotiations according to the agreement that the two governments reached through the UN secretary general on 8 August to hold direct negotiations folowing the cease-fire for the attainment of a mutual understanding on the provisions of Resolution No 598 and the arrangements, measures, and dates pertaining to its implementation.

Addressing the press, 'Aziz said: As you all know, Iraq's stand has always been based on seeking a comprehensive, stable, and lasting peaceful settlement. This has been the stand of the Iraqi Government throughout this conflict that was imposed on Iraq by the Iranian Government and its policies of aggression and expansion from 1979 until its recent acceptance of Resolution No 598. Therefore, this basic and historic Iraqi stand is the stand of our government and our delegation to the negotiations, which will begin tomorrow under the UN secretary general's auspices.

The foreign minister added: I am aware that you and world public opinion are worried about the future of these negotiations. The future of these negotiations will depend on the goodwill of the other side, because Iraq's stand is clear and its intentions are also well known. The point that remains to be clarified is Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598. Has this acceptance been a turning point that will lead to peace relations with Iraq and its neighbors in the region, or has it been a tactical stand

dictated by circumstances that have made Iran make its surprising decision? This decision has come as a surprise to the Iranians themselves and to the world at large, as it is not in line with the the well known Iranian stand.

Concluding his statement Tariq 'Aziz said: We have to wait and see. We are here with good intentions, and we will do everything in our power to render the negotiations a success. However, as I have said, the other side must also show good intentions.

Tariq 'Aziz is accompanied by a delegation comprising 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's UN permanent representative; Dr Riyad al-Qaysi, ambassador in the Foreign Ministry; and other Foreign Ministry officials.

Begins 'Side Talks'

JN2408180988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1711 GMT 24 Aug

[Radio correspondent Ghazi al-'Ayyad dispatch from Geneva]

[Text] Side talks on the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations began at United Nations Palace in Geneva today. Normally, such talks precede the main negotiations, which will begin tomorrow, Thursday. At 1100 this morning, the first meeting of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross was held to discuss one of the important points facing the direct peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran—the issue of the POW's. Iraq demands a list of names of the 25,000 missing Iraqi POW's, in addition to 7,000 Iraqi POW's whose names were mentioned by Iran in previous lists but then were scraped from subsequent lists submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The separate talks proposed by Perez de Cuellar with the Iraqi and Iranian delegations and approved by the two sides have been scheduled to begin at 1115 tomorrow morning—approximately 3 hours before the official negotiations begin.

The disarmament hall, (C Pontier), which is called the chamber hall, has been set as venue for the conference. A large table shaped like an equilateral triangle has been placed inside the hall. A UN delegation under Perez de Cuellar occupies the base of the triangle, while the Iraqi and Iranian delegations occupy the two (?inner) sides. The number of media men with admission badges had reached over 1,000 journalists, TV camermen, and photographers as of today.

Meets Perez de Cuellar

JN2508100688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 25 Aug (INA)—At 1115 Geneva time, 1315 Baghdad time, today, a meeting was held at the Palace of Nations between Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in the presence of members of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations with Iran. Afterward, Perez de Cuellar will hold a meeting with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Iranian regime, and the accompanying delegation.

It was announced a short while ago that direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran will begin in the conference hall at the Palace of Nations at 1530 Geneva time, 1730 Baghdad time, today in the presence of the Iraqi and Iranian delegations. Perez de Cuellar will chair this session. Several international conferences and meetings have been held in this hall, the latest of which were the negotiations on the Afghan issue held last April.

The 51-minute meeting between Perez de Cuellar and Tariq 'Aziz ended at 1206 [Geneva time]. Afterward, the foreign minister and the accompanying delegation left the hall. Tariq 'Aziz made no statements to journalists.

The UN secretary general is scheduled to meet later with Velayati, foreign minister of the Iranian regime. These two meetings pave the way for a joint meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian ministers in the presence of the UN secretary general as part of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran to reach a joint peace agreement. Such an agreement will end the state of war and constitute a basis for a lasting, firm peace betwen the two parties and in the region.

Head of UN Observers Group Arrives in Baghdad

JN2408135888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1341 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, head of the UN observers entrusted with supervising cease-fire between Iraq and Iran in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598, arrived here this afternoon.

He was received at the airport by the public affairs director at the Defense Ministry and the representative of the committee for follow-up and coordination with the UN observers.

26 UN Technicians Arrive

JN2408143188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—Twenty-six UN technicians arrived here today aboard a private plane to join the group of UN observers entrusted with supervising cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. Technical and machinery equipment to be used by the UN observers also arrived aboard the same plane.

Oil Tanker "Ayn Zalah' Crosses Strait of Hormuz

JN2408115088 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Aug. 24. INA—The Iraqi oil tanker "'Ayn Zalah" passed this morning through the Strait of Hormuz heading for the high seas carrying the first cargo of Iraqi crude oil across the Arab Gulf since eight years.

Iraqi Minister of Oil Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim said in a telegram to President Saddam Husayn that those working in the oil sector have been exerting efforts throughout the years of war to increase production capabilities in the main fields of oil industry and they were eager to renew their activity across the Arab Gulf waters, which knew them as the pioneers and the first who sailed across the sea to carry the nationally exploited oil to international ports after the great achievement of oil nationalization.

The minister added that according to the instruction of President Saddam Husayn all requirements were extremly accurately prepared for the sailing of the Iraqi oil tanker "'Ayn Zalah" several hours after the beginning of ceasefire implementation stressing Iraq's right in free navigation and to use its territorial ports.

The minister added that the Iraqi employees are proud of the historical event and the excellent achievement, which they had made while they are commanding the oil tanker with the Iraqi flag flying high.

Saddam Husayn Chairs Cabinet Meeting 25 Aug

JN2508111888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting for the Council of Ministers. In the meeting, topics and issues listed on the agenda were discussed and the appropriate decisions and procedures were made. Attending the meeting were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the head of the presidential office; the ministers; and a number of state officials.

Hammadi Returns From Visits to PRC, Kuwait

JN2508103488 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 25, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council, minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi returned here last night concluding a visit to China in which he was among the Arab 7-member committee delegation entrusted with following up developments of the Iraq-Iran war. The delegation also included Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

While visiting, the Arab delegation met with Chinese officials in their forefront was the Chinese President Yang Shangkun and China's foreign minister where they discussed Iraq's stand towards ending the war with Iran based on establishing a comprehensive and permanent peace in the region.

Paper Calls Attempts To Save Iran 'Treacherous'

JN2308142488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH warns against perfidious and treacherous attempts by suspect international parties to save the Iranian rulers from their latest impasse.

In an article published today, the newspaper says that international parties which harbor well-known ambitions in the region, including the Zionists, are attempting to tip the balance in favor of Iran, save it from the status of deterioration afflicting it, and enable it to have a free hand in the direct negotiations, displaying a determination to regard Iran as "neither conquerer nor conquered" in the war.

The newspaper adds that these suspect international forces realize that Iran is the initiator of hostilities, considering the international violations it perpetrated and the hostility it demonstrated toward Iraq before 22 September 1980.

AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Ministry of Defense, affirms that these international forces seek, through evil alliances and common ambitions, to save what can be saved for Iran by wagering on its rulers with the aim of preventing the occurrence of political surprises that might replace them with another regime which might not enjoy the Zionist and imperialist support needed for serving the suspect interests in Iran and the Arabian Gulf region.

The paper indicates that the procrastination, prevarication, the new Iranian allegations, including the cease-fire violations, the Iranian military mobilization campaigns, the manifestations of piracy in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf, and the heated media statements are indications that Iran was compelled to opt for peace.

The paper asserts that the Iraqi people's cohesion, their wise leadership, their heroism, and their vigilance—the things which enabled this people to forge the final historic victory over their enemies is the greatest guarantee of peace.

Papers View Positions on Peace Negotiations

Iran To 'Obstruct' Talks

JN2408083788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iran's exposed attempts at power demonstration cannot change Iraq's strong determination to continue its march on the path of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

In an editorial today, the paper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Iraq, which firmly believes in peace, and which has been seriously and sincerely calling for peace, will never hamper the peace process. It cannot but continue to be faithful to its principles and policies, and to adhere to the achievement of a comprehensive peace.

The paper adds: The Iranian rulers will attempt to obstruct direct negotiations and the peace process with all their skills, maneuvers, procrastination, and circumvention. They will also try to set impossible and illogical conditions that have nothing to do with Resolution 598.

AL-THAWRAH says: The direct negotiations will clearly reveal Iran's true intentions and prove to the international community whether the Iranian rulers were serious in adopting the peace course and that they have relinquished their illegal and unjust means.

The paper stresses that Iraq will never allow attempts to reward Iran or disrupt the balance of power between them. It also strongly rejects any move aimed at encouraging Iran to evade or circumvent Resolution 598. It says: Although Iraq is heading for direct negotiations with the reins of political initiative in its hands based on great victories, it has no plans to achieve any illegitimate gains or ambitions at the expense of Iran's peoples and sovereignty.

Iranian Stand 'Not Clear Enough'

JN2508065088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Iraqi stand at the Geneva negotiations, which will begin today, will be in line with its clear, principled stand, namely, that peace is the right path to life.

In an editorial, the newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: The Iraqi stand is principled, clear, and consistent regarding the termination of the conflict and the attainment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace between the two countries in particular and in the region in general. This stand emanates from a firm and deep belief that peace is the right path to life. Meanwhile, the stand of Khomeyni's Iran is not clear enough yet, especially since the Iranian rulers have proved by words and deeds over the past 8 years that they do not seek peace.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Iranian rulers are demanded now more than ever before to confirm their good intentions, if they actually have goodwill, by completely relinquishing their expansionist slogans and erroneous allegations whose nullity and grave failure have been ultimately confirmed. Moreover, the Iranian rulers should practically prove they seek peace and that they actually want to attain a comprehensive, lasting agreement. Otherwise, their acceptance of Resolution No 598 does not mean they have abandoned their evil slogans and intentions against our people and nation.

The paper adds: A basic, important fact should be emphasized on the beginning of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran following an 8-year-old fierce and total war, namely, that thanks to the capable, victorious Iraq and to its major role, this second essential step on the path of peace has been achieved.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Both the decisive Iraqi victory and the great Iraqi capability have imposed the will of peace on the Iranian rulers. They also forced these rulers to accept direct negotiations. Both are solid guarantees for all noble peace efforts being exerted so they may be crowned with a comprehensive, just, lasting, and honorable peace.

Iranian Position 'Still Suspect'

JN2508074088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged the international community to adopt a more serious stand toward the Iranian rulers and their exposed tricks and aggressive policy.

In its editorial here today, the paper calls on the United Nations to adopt a stand far from the suspect, unprincipled wills and desires imposed on the genuine international willpower by the interests of some international parties. These parties use their own interests as a means to encourage the Iranian regime to adopt tricks and maneuvers.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The Iranian regime's position on peace is still suspect and so are this regime's true intentions which have been revealed to everyone. Moreover, this position is multi-faceted and branches into sharply-conflicting stands that are only linked by overt threats and by adherence to an aggressive, expansionist policy.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the official Iraqi delegation left for Geneva yesterday to record another initiative to be added to Iraq's numerous peace initiatives and also to confirm goodwill and a genuine desire to render successful the direct negotiations which will be held today under the auspices of the UN secretary general. The paper emphasizes that Iraq's stand on peace is clear, consistent and based on clear, precise foundations and principles whose legitimate approaches are in line with the UN Charter and international laws.

The paper adds: Peace is a will. Iraq's will has led to the path of peace through scores of victories in which the Iraqis offered very dear sacrifices. To be genuine, lasting, and comprehensive, peace should be a stand and an integrated mode of behavior.

Shamir Comments on U.S. Relations, Deportations

TA2508121588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Slomo Raz at a building contractors conference in Tel Aviv on 25 August—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] Mr Prime Minister, it seems that against the backdrop of Israel's deportation policy, this is a tense moment in relations between Israel and the United States. Will there be any change in the policy?

[Shamir] There is no tension in the relationship with the U.S. Government. We are allies. In the last decade we have established a special relationship with the United States such as we had never had before. The main basis for this relationship is the fact that as allies, we can have differences. We do not have to agree on everything. It is even unnatural to agree on everything. These differences, however, are not disturbing. They do not change or spoil the special character of the relationships between allies. Such is our relationship with the United States today.

[Raz] Perhaps Israel will consider changing its deportation policy?

[Shamir] We are not conducting a deportation policy. We are responsible for maintaining order and security in all of the areas under our control. We implement all the necessary means to achieve this goal. This is our duty. Today we use deportations, tomorrow we may use another method. We do whatever is required. The United States is not responsible for order here; we are! The United States recognizes this fact. That is why we should not speak about a policy of deportations, just as we should not speak about a break or a change in it.

We do not enjoy taking such steps. We do not want to make the population suffer unnecessary casualties or misery. We are all waiting for them to again exercise reason and behave sanely. We hope they will stop this madness. Only then will order be restored. Maybe then we will also be able to talk about arrangements that will deal with peace.

[Raz] Sir, what is your position concerning Minister Sharon's statement that the defense minister should be sacked?

[Shamir] Well, that is his opinion. Today, in the face of the violent attacks on Israel, we are interested in maintaining unity among the members of the Government, and obtaining a nationwide consensus on ways to resist that violence. That is why it is self evident that we are all united on the front line, and that includes the defense minister, the defense forces, and all other security forces.

Policy To Continue Unchanged

TA2408152788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The U.S. protest will not bring about a change in the Israeli deportation policy. This was said today by the prime minister's office in the wake of Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. In a communique published today, the Foreign Ministry stated that Israel disagrees with the U.S. interpretation of the international law on deportations. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] All of official Jerusalem today presented a consensus, a rare occurrence around here. Both the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry issued their respective rejections of the U.S. criticism of Israel's deportation policy. During the weekly Cabinet meeting this morning, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reviewed the detailed considerations which guide the defense establishment in its deportation steps. The ministers decided that the Foreign Ministry should issue an official reaction both publicly and through diplomatic channels. [passage omitted]

At noon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir joined Ambassador Thomas Pickering for a meeting originally planned 10 days ago. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss bilateral issues on the eve of the ambassador's vacation. In the meeting the prime minister reiterated the considerations behind the deportation orders. We have learned that the ambassador expressed his regret at the extensive media coverage accorded yesterday's meeting between Deputy Secretary John Whitehead and Attache 'Oded 'Eran. The meeting was meant to be a private diplomatic talk.

It seems the Americans did not expect their protest to be followed by such vehement reverberations. Ambassador Pickering's polite remarks, however, should not be seen as a withdrawal of the explicit demand to refrain from carrying out the deportation orders.

Judging by today's official reactions of those in charge of the matter in Jerusalem, no formal shift in the Israeli policy is to be expected. All that is now left to be seen is how fast the pending deportation orders against the 27 residents of the territories are carried out.

Sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told us today that since 1967, Israel has allowed some 100,000 Palestinians to immigrate to the territories. Israel was guided by humanitarian considerations of family reunions. A country like this should have no inferiority complexes when taking steps prompted by nothing other than security concerns. [end recording]

Policy Explained to U.S. Envoy

TA2408163588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Report by Razi Barqay]

[Excerpts] The officials are trying to keep a low profile. The ambassador, leaving the meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir, uses the oft-repeated phrase—"a good meeting." The prime minister refuses to answer questions. His adviser Avi Pazner tells us: Israel has explained to the Americans that it implements a selective deportation policy, and this policy will continue despite the protests. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Pazner] The prime minister explained Israel's position on the subject of deportations to the U.S. ambassador. As I have said, we will not make the contents of their meeting public, because just like the Whitehead-'Eran conversation, this meeting was not for publication. We hope very much it will not be publicized. Our stands were made clear to Mr Pickering. [end recording]

Do the Americans intend to take practical steps, beyond the verbal condemnation? Sources in Jerusalem claim the whole issue has been blown out of proportion, that Pickering is, in any event, leaving for a vacation, and that it is inconceivable for an administration in the process of packing its suitcases to decide to deteriorate its relations with Israel now, of all times.

Peres on Deportations, U.S. 'Disagreement'

TA2508051988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Aharon Barne'a and Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barne'a] Our guest this morning is Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Barne'a] Good morning to our correspondent Razi Barqay. Mr Peres, what will we tell the Americans? Are we to go on explaining, or will we cede to their demand to reconsider the deportation orders, or at least to abstain from carrying them out?

[Peres] I do not know anyone here who is happy about the deportation orders. They are not something we looked for, and it is certainly not something we would do wholesale. It is our duty to bring about maximum calm in the territories and to provide security to all the residents, both the Jews and the Arabs. We do indeed disagree with the United States over the legal aspects. We claim—and when I say we, I mean our courts as well—that what is being done is legal. The 20 prospective deportees have the option of appealing to legal institutions. Deportations are done neither gladly nor arbitrarily, nor is there any enthusiasm accompanying it. It should be considered whether there is any effective maximum penalty in this state which—and I am indeed very proud of it—abstains from meting out death sentences.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, judging from what you have said, we can assume that you agree absolutely with the defense minister's deportation policy.

[Peres] First of all, there is no policy of deportation. What does that mean? Individual decisions are made regarding each deportation, and the policy is to abstain from deportations. No policy of deportations exists.

[Barqay] But there are dozens of deportees.

[Peres] Because a most difficult situation has existed in the territories in the last 9 or 10 months. Why had there been no deportations before? Because there was no intifada [uprising]. The deportations are not our initiative; they are a reaction. You can talk about a policy when you initiate a line of action, but we are merely reacting to a recently created very difficult situation. I would like to tell you something along political, or perhaps moral lines:

This attempt on the part of the terrorist organizations to turn a whole population, whose situation is so difficult—I am referring to the population of the territories—to wring a military option out of them—is tragic. The residents are paying a very high price; we are all paying a price for this unbearable situation.

[Barne'a] Do you estimate that the deportations—their number will reach 60, if they are all carried out—have brought about a calming of the developments in the territories in the past 9 months?

[Peres] No, I have no such pretensions. As far as I know, we do not have any one single measure which can calm the situation. It is clear that the alternative to the present situation lies in political negotiations. The measures we have taken so far are of a defensive nature; they were aimed at providing security. What can provide a solution is, beyond any doubt, a political alternative.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, according to your theory and that of others, such political negotiations have to be conducted with local residents in the territories. The emerging leadership in the territories, however, is being deported. What the Americans are saying is obviously this: If you deport everyone, with whom will you talk?

[Peres] The leadership must decide what it is. If it is a political leadership, then no one will be deported. There were people in the territories whose public utterances

were very similar to those of the PLO, and yet no one touched them. If the leadership becomes involved in acts of violence, however, it does not leave the authorities any alternative. The state is obliged to take measures against leaders who deal with violence, with Molotov cocktails. The moment a child or a woman is hurt, the whole mood and the entire policy change, and rightly so. We do not forbid the leaders to express their opinions. What is a democratic state? A democratic state is one which allows freedom of speech, not freedom of terror. I know no democratic country which allows its citizens, visitors, or residents to perpetrate illegal acts of terror.

[Barqay] I would like to understand, Mr Peres. Are the deportees the ones who hurl Molotov cocktails? Why not bring them to trial, then?

[Peres] The deportees are either the hurlers or the ones who encourage the hurling. We adhere to the Jordanian law: We deport only people who live in the territories, where this law is in effect. Even there, however, we have introduced Israeli additions: a possibility to appeal to a committee and to courts. There is nothing arbitrary about that.

[Barne'a] Perhaps we can return to the American angle. Why, in your opinion, did the Americans step forward now, of all times, when their administration is in fact packing its suitcases?

[Peres] The Americans have always disagreed with us over the issue of deportations. They have not kept it secret and have expressed their disagreement with us in international forums as well. Naturally, this is the result of the political stalemate in the Middle East. The stalemate does nothing for public opinion, which seeks—and rightly so—a nonviolent solution to this situation, just as we do ourselves. We cannot be in control of all the possible moves, and I hope very much that Israel will take the initiative by speaking up. We must not remain ensconced in this position of merely reacting. I object to all those who insist on a status quo, saying: It will be all right, just wait, wait, wait. Waiting will not save us.

[Barne'a] Have you received the impression that the Americans are apt to take practical measures beyond the verbal condemnation?

[Peres] How do you mean?

[Barne'a] Sanctions of one kind or another, for example.

[Peres] I do not think they will. But I want to tell you...

[Barne'a, interrupting] For instance, they said they will join the denunciation in the United Nations.

[Peres] It is possible; they have done it in the past in cases of deportations. I do not underestimate what the Americans have been saying, nor do I think their remarks should be taken lightly. There is no doubt we are interested in a sympathetic public opinion. Our relations with the United States are not merely dry or formal; they are relations between people, involving feelings and expectations, and there is nothing frivolous about that. If you want to maintain a relationship with the United States, you cannot do it by mail.

[Barqay] Did you receive the impression from Ambassador Pickering that this outgoing administration intends to take practical steps against Israel?

[Peres] I did not hear any threat, but it does not mean that I take their remarks lightly. The Americans have been extremely cautious not to introduce a threatening tone into their remarks.

[Barne'a] Mr Peres, just one last point, as long as we have you on the line. Minister Sharon yesterday reiterated his demand that the prime minister dismiss the defense minister because of his policy in the territories. What is your reaction?

[Peres] Well—and you took him seriously? Dismiss him for what? For the fact that they had deep-frozen the political process and caused the present situation? Minister Rabin is facing an unprecedented provocation. Not merely does he have to cope with the intifada, he also has to deal with internal strife. Minister Sharon has already preached to the whole world. During the Lebanon war, which did not have all the parties' consent and which lasted 4 years, the first to protest the objections to the war was none other than Minister Sharon. I think Yitzhaq Rabin is facing an unbearable situation which he did not seek and which he is coping with to the best of his ability and the means at his disposal.

[Barne'a] Thank you, Shim'on Peres, and you Razi Barqay.

6 Soldiers 'Lightly Wounded' in Lebanon Clash

TA2408172188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] A five-man gang was killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers north of the security zone in south Lebanon this afternoon. Six Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded; five have already been treated and returned to their units. More details from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The clash occurred near the village of Kawkaba, north of Marj 'Uyun and a short distance beyond the perimeters of the security zone. Contrary to Lebanese reports, military sources said the Israeli force was not carrying out a wide-spread search operation in the area but was undertaking an initiated action of the sort the Army has been doing for some time now in its efforts to forestall hostile activity against the security zone and Israeli targets. The IDF unit opened fire as soon as it encountered the five-man gang.

All five were killed, but in the exchange of fire six Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded. They were evacuated by helicopter, with artillery and attack helicopters called in to deal with any attempts to interfere with the evacuation. Five of the soldiers were treated and have already been sent back to their units. The area of the clash is known to be under the control of the extremist Shi'ite Hizballah organization.

Firebomb Thrown at Shefar'am Municipal Building

TA2508071288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled this morning at the Shefar'am mayor's office. [Shefar'am is located inside the Green Line] The building was slightly damaged.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that unknown persons destroyed the state and municipal flags which were hoisted on the building, and derogatory graffiti against Shefar'am Mayor Ibrahim Nimr al-Husayn was painted on the walls. The police has launched an investigation.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Yattah 'Closed Military Zone'

TA2508121888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The village of Yattah, south of Hebron, was declared a closed military zone today. Earlier this morning the body of Sa'id Hasan al-Hammush, aged 30, was found in the village. Six masked men attacked him with axes and killed him. The Judaea District police are investigating the circumstances of his death. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

Youth Wounded by Border Police

TA2408161488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] A youth was shot and wounded in the Balatah refugee camp near Ramallah as he was about to throw a firebomb at a border police patrol. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that policemen saw the youngster holding a firebomb in his hand. When he tried to throw it, the policemen opened fire and wounded the youth. He was taken to the hospital in Nabulus.

Jewish Boy Hit by Stone

TA2408191788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] A 1-year-old boy from Qiryat Arba' was slightly injured this evening by a stone thrown at a No 160 bus he was riding. Some of the windows of the bus were shattered. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that stones were thrown at Israeli cars and buses near the Al-'Arrub refugee camp.

Several Injured in Riots

TA2408202588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] There were riots in the casbah area in Nabulus this evening. The rioters were dispersed by IDF troops. Hospitals in Nabulus reported several injured people. The IDF is checking whether these are rioters who were injured during the dispersal of the disturbances.

Settlers from Ginnot Shomron and Qedumim told our correspondent Moti Amir this evening that despite the nightly curfew imposed on the town, riots have been taking place in 'Azzun near Qalqilyah. Stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles and stone barriers were placed on the main road.

In Al-'Arrub south of Gush 'Ezyon in Judaea, an Israeli fired four shots in the air after stones were thrown at his car and at a bus driving in front of him. A boy riding on the bus was hit on the cheek by a stone. The Israeli civilian who fired shots in the air was taken in for questioning, his gun was confiscated, and he was summoned to a court in Jerusalem tomorrow.

2 Bus Passengers Injured

TA2508052888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Two Egged bus passengers were slightly injured this morning on the Ma'ale Adummim road, as a Molotov cocktail was hurled at the bus. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the bus caught fire when it was hit by the firebomb; its passengers fled. The two injured passengers were transferred to the Mount Scopus hospital. Fire fighters who were summoned to the site, put out the fire. IDF forces closed the area and began a search.

18 Hurt in 24 Aug Riots

TA2508053288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Some 18 residents were injured in yesterday's riots in the territories: 13 were injured in the Nabulus casbah; 4 in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip; and another man, who had attempted to assassinate the village mukhtar's brother, in the Samarian village of 'Azzun.

A curfew was imposed on Nabulus, and the curfews remain in force in three refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and in the Gazan neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Radwan. A general strike continues in the territories and in East Jerusalem.

Gazan Death Investigated

TA2508065288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The military police are investigating the circumstances in which Gaza Strip resident Hani' Hashimi met his death after being detained. Military sources have told our correspondent that an IDF unit arrived at the man's home to detain his son, who was suspected of participating in disturbances. After the deceased objected to his son's arrest, he was beaten and detained. A physician examined the father and declared that he could be detained, but several hours later the man died.

Jewish 'Provocateurs' Arrested

TA2508074388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Or Yehuda—The petrol bombs flung at a home here on Sunday, were thrown by Jewish provocateurs, police said yesterday, and not by the four Arabs who were initially arrested.

Two Jews were arrested yesterday on suspicion of throwing the bombs in order to create an atmosphere of hostility against Arabs. Their intention, said police, was to discourage the presence of Arabs in this town where three Arab workers were burned to death in the hut where they slept two weeks ago. Numerous Arabs from the territories are employed on construction sites in Or Yehuda.

One of the suspects is a member of the Maslawi family into whose yard the three petrol bombs and smoke bomb were thrown early Sunday, causing minor damage. The other is also a local resident.

Bus Attacked Near Jerusalem

TA2508103988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A bus which carried Arab and Jewish workers to Jerusalem was firebombed this morning. No one was seriously injured. The bus, belonging to the Gershon Tours company, makes the run daily, picking up Jewish workers from Ma'ale Adummim and Arab workers from neighboring Al-'Ayzariyah. [passage omitted]

Peres Seen Courting Religious Voters

TA2508130988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 25 Aug

[Excerpt] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres held an unusual meeting and a long conversation with the spiritual leader of the Hasidim, Rabbi Yisakhar-Dov Rokach. Today Peres continued the same trend by visiting the grave of the elder Baba Sali [the late spiritual leader of the Moroccan Jewish community] in the township of Netivot. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar accompanied him on his tour and asked him the reason for these meetings. Peres replied: Yes, it is true. We have to plan a coalition.

[Begin Peres recording] I say we have to make an extra effort to help the religious voter decide to vote for the Alignment. There is no point portraying the Alignment as an antireligious party. Just as we are not antireligious, so we are not a religious party. Most of the issues on our platform have been there since the times of MAPAI and I do not see any reason to pretend to be what we are not. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Trade Unionists Urge Histadrut To Join Demand

TA2408184688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Palestinian trade unionists from the territories, together with the Israel Communist Party, today called on the Histadrut, the general federation of labor, to join them in their demand for free trade union activity in the territories. At a news conference, the Palestinian unionists said that about two thirds of the council members of the General Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions had been arrested by the authorities during the uprising. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] Palestinian unionists said two thirds of the local union activists had been arrested by Israeli authorities. This includes one third of the executive committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

One unionist, however, did manage to attend. He was Ibrahim Shuqayr, a member of the Executive Committee. As he said, the authorities had ordered closed offices of other unions in Ramallah, Tulkarm, Salfit, Idnah, and Jericho. Earlier this month, a Palestinian unionist, 'Adnan Dahir, [name as heard] was deported. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Education Minister on West Bank Students

JN2308144188 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Dr Nasir al-Din al-Asad, minister of Higher Education, has asserted that West Bank students who applied to Jordanian universities will be treated as the Arab states' students in light of the decision to disengage administrative and legal relationships with the West Bank.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr al-Asad pointed out that the quota set for students from Arab states which was 5 percent of the university seats, will be increased to provide for the increase in the numbers of students from the Arab states and the West Bank.

A quota of 10 percent in colleges which have an equivalent in the West Bank universities, and a 20 percent quota for colleges which have no equivalent, was set for West Bank students.

Inspection Official on Cards for W. Bank Citizens

JN2308190688 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 23 Aug (PETRA)—Muhammad al-'Udwan, director of the inspection and follow-up department, which is a department of the Ministry of Interior, said that no adjustments have been made on the nature of the department's work. The department continues to provide facilities for the citizens coming from the West Bank on a visit, to study here or abroad, or to travel abroad for tourist or work purposes.

In an interview with PETRA NEWS AGENCY, Al-'Udwan added that the bridge security units provide the visitor with a green card on which the period of residence of 2 weeks is specified. The instructions issued by the concerned departments gave the inspections and follow-up department the right to extend the visit by another 2 weeks, if the need for that should arise. He said that West Bank inhabitants residing in Jordan will be given yellow cards, whose validity is defined by a period which is two months less than the period of validity of the reentry permit issued them by the the occupation authorities. These cards will be renewed in accordance with the extension of the permit.

Al-'Udwan explained that students coming form the West Bank to study in Jordan or abroad will be given a green card by the bridge security units valid for 2 weeks so that they can get their acceptance papers from the university they intend to study at. If they do not manage to finish their acceptance formalities they can apply to the department for another 2 weeks during which they either leave for the university or go back to the West Bank if they fail to get accepted to a university.

If the student wishes to study abroad, the department will extend the period specified in the green or yellow card an additional period which is two months less than the validity of the reentry permit. If he still wishes to extend this period after it expires, all he would have to do is to apply to the department or send someone to apply for him, on condition that he has already extended the period of validity of his reentry permit, and to obtain a passport in accordance with the recent instructions issued by the Prime Ministry, if he carries a passport issued before the issuing of these instructions.

Al-'Udwan explained that those residing abroad for education or work and whose actual place of residence is in the West Bank, would, according to the instructions, have to return to the West Bank as soon as their contracts expire or their education is finished, if they come to the Kingdom. If they get a new chance to work abroad, the previous instructions dictating that the cards and reentry permits should be renewed would apply.

Al-'Udwan affirmed that the department will not hesitate to take legal measures against those who violate the law. It asks the brother citizens residents of the West Bank to adhere to the instructions and measures issued by the department.

Industry Minister on Aid to Iraqi Reconstruction

JN2008091688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 88 p 5

[By economics correspondent Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's public and private sectors are ready to contribute to the reconstruction of the Iraqi economy in the wake of eight years of war with Iran, Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Al-Tabba' declared Friday.

"What we can do is to develop cooperation on the official and private levels through joint agreements and meetings between the two countries and through offering Jordanian expertise in the area of construction, industry and tourism services," the minister said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, PETRA.

Tabba' welcomed Iraqi investments in Jordan and stressed "the readiness of the private sector to take part in the rebuilding of the Iraqi economy after the war."

He said an end to the Gulf war "would reflect positively on our economy in the area of investments and of attempts to lower unemployment rates."

He said that recent measures adopted by the government to facilitate investments and boost exports would help lower unemployment through new investment projects, contribute effectively to attracting Arab capital and keep open economic channels with other countries.

He described the recent measures to liberalise the economy through easing protectionism and cutting paperwork as "a return to the normal order of things." He pointed out that protectionist measures introduced in 1985 were "temporary measures warranted by circumstances." He said protectionism was found to have "halted investments and harmed the interests of consumers."

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday, the minister said the government was on its way to resolve a trade crisis with Iraq which resulted from Jordanian exporters exceeding the trade quota between the two countries.

He said the government was consulting with Iraq on ways to finance $100 million worth of Jordanian private-sector exports in excess of the $185 million ceiling. A meeting is scheduled for this week between Jordanian officials and the under-secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, to discuss a settlement to the problem, Al-Tabba' said.

Jordan's exports to Iraq increased in 1987 to JD [Jordanian dinars] 60 million, compared to JD 42 million the previous year. Its imports from Iraq also climbed from JD 80 million in 1986 to JD 100 million in 1987, according to the Central Bank's monthly statistical bulletin.

In January and February this year, exports to Iraq reached JD 15.7 million, compared to JD 4.6 million in the same period last year and JD 5.1 million in 1986. Imports also rose from JD 15.8 million in 1987 to JD 19.1 million in the first two months of this year.

AL-RA'Y on Criticism of Deportations

JN2008082688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Aug 88 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Western States and the Israeli Deportation Policy"]

[Text] Yesterday the United States criticized Israel's decision to deport 25 Palestinian strugglers living in the occupied territories. The EC ambassador in Tel Aviv also lodged a protest with the Israeli authorities over the same decision. Thus, all Western states have voiced opposition to the deportation policy being pursued by the Israeli occupiers and through which they seek to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

Israel has so far displayed total indifference to this opposition. The deportation policy being pursued by Israel has continued and there are no signs of an Israeli inclination to abandon it. This clearly means that unless the Western states take political and economic measures to make Israel abandon this policy, criticisms and protests, whether verbal or written, will be useless.

In view of this, Washington is called upon to substantiate its credibility by making Israel understand that it will not continue to enjoy the backing of the U.S. veto if it persists in its pursuit of the policy of deportation. Besides, the EC member states can impose economic sanctions on Israel if it continues to pursue this policy. Only through this can can U.S. criticisms and European protests yield results.

On the other hand, fraternal Egypt can exert pressure on Israel and warn it that its continued deportation of Palestinian strugglers from the occupied territories might have negative effects on Egyptian-Israeli relations.

In all cases, it must be said that the Palestinian uprising, which has entered its 9th month, is too strong to yield to the policy of oppression being perpetrated by occupation authorities. Just as the policies of bone-breaking, demolition of houses, mass detentions, and opening fire on Palestinians have failed, it is certain that the deportation policy will fail to abort the uprising. There is no doubt that the great Palestinian people will continue their heroic struggle until they regain their land and exercise their national rights there.

On U.S. 'Double-Faced' Policy

JN2508071688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Aug 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Double-Faced Washington"]

[Text] As was expected, the protest that the U.S ambassador in Tel Aviv presented to the Israeli authorities, criticizing their deportation policy against large numbers of Palestinians in the occupied territories, has not produced any result. These authorities have declared that the U.S protest will change nothing of their policy, and that they will continue deportation acts, claiming that this is aimed at maintaining order in the occupied territories.

It is strongly believed that when Washington presented its protest, it knew what would happen to it. Perhaps it thought the protest enough for it to get clearance from the Arabs, while U.S.-Israeli strategic relations proceed on their way. However, this method, which deals with the Arabs through sedatives represented by protests that Washington presents to the Israeli aggressors while dealing with the aggressors themselves through military and economic assistance, no longer misleads any one. It proves that the U.S. policy on the Palestinian question still depends on deception. It continues to be the double-faced policy that gives the Arabs sweet words while giving the Israeli aggressors the resources that help them continue their aggression.

Washington is not incapable of stopping the Israeli acts of deportation against Palestinian strugglers if it truely wants this. Israel basically depends on Washington for its money and arms. It also enjoys the protection of the U.S. veto. It is hard for anyone to believe that Israel can throw

the U.S. protest over deportation of Palestinians overboard if it is certain, even for one moment, that Washington is serious in this protest.

In its true political conception, a protest is not a mere expression of emotions. It is a policy of pressure to stop illegal practices by others. It is an introduction that may be followed by firmer measures in this direction. However, this conception is far from the tactical protests that Washington sometimes presents to Tel Aviv to throw sand in the eyes of the Arabs and inject them with sedatives. This is the truth of the U.S. protest, which changed nothing of Israel's deportation policy against Palestinian strugglers in the occupied territories.

Israeli Satellite 'Bodes Ill' for Arabs

JN2508095388 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Israel in Space"]

[Text] The news that Israel is on the verge of launching its own surveillance satellite raises several important questions. The prospect of an Israel with space-spying capabilities independent of other states or international bodies bodes ill for an Arab world that has sat by idly watching Israel develop home-grown nuclear weapons, medium-range missiles, fighter jets, patrol boats and sophisticated radar. To maintain such an array of advanced military hardware and software in the hands of a maverick garrison state under the leadership of increasingly rightwing and militaristic elements can only promote a deterioration in the prospects for a negotiated peace.

If Israel feels it can, on its own, adequately spy on Arab military capabilities and movements, and also adequately deter or repel Arab military options, while the international community issues harmless warnings and admonitions, we are likely to see the continued emergence of a militaristic Israel that puts all its faith in its own weapons and surveillance capabilities. Such a state is likely to continue taking unilateral actions such as its attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor or its raids on Palestinian targets in Lebanon and Tunis.

The dilemma for the Arabs is, simply, what do we do about this negative trend? It is unlikely that we can match the Israeli technical capabilities in these fields in the years to come, though we might have a chance of doing so by harnessing our good contacts with friends around the world who may be able to supply us with the requisite systems. An escalation of such an arms race in the Middle East is bad news for all concerned, as it would assure continued high levels of military expenditures while detracting from the universal desire to spend our money on social and economic development.

There is a role for satellite surveillance in our future, but it is one that would relate to mutual surveillance to assure compliance with a negotiated peace settlement that would assure the security of both the Arab and Israeli sides in the conflict, once the national rights and territorial limits of all concerned parties have been agreed upon to the satisfaction of all.

Briefs

Government Appointments

The Council of Ministers yesterday decided to appoint Nasuh al-Majali as a cabinet adviser and Tirad al-Fayiz as secretary general of the Ministry of Information as of 1 September 1988. [Text] [*JN2508075288 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Aug 88*]

Cargo Vessel Purchased

Amman (J.T.)—The Jordanian-Syrian Maritime Company has decided to purchase a cargo vessel to be jointly owned with the Arab Union Insurance company; and to take direct charge of the new vessel which will transport goods between the Arab region and north and north western Europe.

The announcement was made during a meeting here by the company's general assembly, co-chaired by ministers of transport in Jordan and Syria, Khalid al-Haj Hasan and Yusuf al-Ahmad.

The joint company will own only 25 per cent of the vessel, which will have an overall cost of $2 million, according to the announcement. [Excerpt] *[JN2508110888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Aug 88]*

Rasi Accuses U.S. of 'Intervention' in Elections
LD2508131588 Kuwaut KUNA in English 1114 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug 25 (KUNA)—Lebanese Minister of Interior 'Abdallah Rasi accused the United States of direc' intervention in his country's presidential elections. He said that the U.S. Administration, through its embassy in Beirut, had blocked nomination of Sulayman Franjiyah and foiled the parliament session held last Thursday to elect a new president to replace President Amin al-Jumayyil.

The minister, talking to KUNA in an exclusive interview here Thursday, said a ranking American diplomat had telephoned several MPs urging them not to attend the parliament session held on August 18. Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni called for that session to elect Franjiyah to replace Al-Jumayyil whose tenure ends next month. About 14 MPs from the Christian-dominated East Beirut failed to attend the session. The Phalangists held hostage three of them and stopped them from travelling to West Beirut to take part in the voting procedure. Only 38 MPs out of 76 attended the session. 51 MPs were needed for the quota.

Rasi also accused Israel of indirect involvement in the Lebanese elections through the rightwing Lebanese Forces. The minister suggested as a settlement for the Lebanese crisis the dissolving of the militia forces plaguing the country and said only a brave and determined president could do this job. He, however, predicted that the situation in Lebanon will become more explosive if President al-Jamayyil imposes a fait accompli government in the country in violation to the Constitution.

The 60-year-old minister, who miraculously escaped death when a helicopter carrying him with the late Premier Rashid Karami crashed in June 1987, urged Damascus and Washington to reach an understanding on the Lebanese elections and said 'their agreement would make things easier and stop American and Israeli agents from sabotaging the elections'. He cautioned that if the parliament fails to elect a new president the country will be doomed 'because the election of a president is very vital to the country and for the continuation of Lebanon as one entity because any constitutional vacuum would lead to the partition of the already divided country'. Al-Jumayyil's term ends on September 23. The Constitution stipulates that a new president should be elected in two months period. Minister Rasi ruled out the possibility of any national reconciliation as long as the present president remained in office.

'Source' on Syrian-U.S Differences on President
NC2508112188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] An Arab diplomatic source today said that the policy of maneuver and intrigue which Syria is pursuing in the Arab and Lebanese arenas is due to the isolation which that regime feels in the Arab world. It also is due to the erosion and near collapse of Syria's subversive role in Lebanon. The source noted that it is within this context that the news which Syrian intelligence leaked to a Lebanese newspaper today should be viewed. According to this news, a conflict arose between Damascus and Washington with regard to the Lebanese presidential elections because of Washington's efforts to install a president who would agree to allow a number of Palestinians to settle in Lebanon. Damascus rejected this idea.

The Arab diplomatic source asserted that Syria is leaking such news in a bid to rehabilitate its Arab standing, refurbish its image, and shore up its position in the Arab arena. Mindful of Iraq's recent victories against Iran, the Syrians, the source said, are trying to extract themselves from their debacle in Lebanon. They are trying to absorb the shock of their defeat on 18 August and at the same time edge Washington away from the Lebanese theater of action, he added.

Khaddam Message Conveyed to Al-Husayni
NC2308162588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni met with [PSP official] Muhsin Dallul today. Dallul said he conveyed a message to Al-Husayni from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He also stated that Syria's determination to support the election of Former President Sulayman Franjiyah is final and irreversible. Meanwhile, Robert Franjiyah left for Damascus today to resume talks with Khaddam on the constitutional deadline in light of his fater's decision to run for president.

Robert Franjiyah: Syria To Oppose U.S. 'Design'
NC2408172588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Robert Franjiyah, who has returned from Damascus, said this evening that holding the presidential elections within the constitutional period is no longer possible due to the cessation of the U.S.-Syrian negotiations. He added that everything has become possible, including a military flare-up and partition of Lebanon.

In his statement, Robert Franjiyah accused the United States of changing its stand and going back on its commitments. He pointed out that the U.S. stand, which was once in line with Syria's stand to dissociate the Lebanese presidential elections from the region's issues, changed following Murphy's visit to Damascus. He noted that Washington would be wrong if it believes it can ignore President al-Asad, who voiced his support for former President Sulayman Franjiyah. President al-Asad, as is known, is a man known for his firm stands, he added.

Robert Franjiyah went on to accuse the United States of endeavoring to establish a Palestinian canton in southern Lebanon, the issue which has erupted into a dispute

between the United States and Syria over the personality of the next Lebanese president. In his statement to AFP, Robert Franjiyah said that Syria is determined to oppose the election of a president who would be in harmony with the U.S. design. He affirmed the readiness of all the Lebanese nationalist sides to use all means, even the military option, to oppose those who try to peddle this design. He pointed out that the present government is the only legitimate one.

Al-Huss Returns From Damascus, Comments on Visit
NC2408163588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1553 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut from Damascus at 1830 today after an official visit to the Syrian capital during which he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Upon arrival, he said: It is no exaggeration to say that Lebanon is going through a very critical phase during this stage of the constitutional deadline. It was imperative that I visit Damascus to consult with the Syrian leadership, foremost with President al-Asad, on developments in the Lebanese arena, particularly after the elections process stumbled as a result of the presidential elections being thwarted last Thursday.

He stated: It provided a good opportunity to exchange views on the developments of this stage and what can be done to confront the challenges in order to get Lebanon out of the current crisis and repel the dangers threatening it through the opportunity that the deadline is making available. Al-Huss added: I felt that the Syrian leadership was very willing to help at all levels on this issue on the basis of the special fraternal relationship between our two countries. We will continue to consult the brothers in Syria until the desired goal of fulfilling the Lebanese people's hope of salvation is reached, God willing.

Al-Hashim Terms Situation 'Dangerous'
NC2508115188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni met with Minister Joseph al-Hashim for more than 1 hour today. Following the meeting, Minister al-Hashim stressed that the situation is very delicate and even dangerous. However, sincere efforts are being made to break the current stalemate. Minister al-Hashim emphasized that it is necessary to reach an accord before any parliamentary session. He also noted that U.S.-Syrian contacts are continuing.

Shi'ite Council Issues Statement on Elections
NC2408143488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din presided over a regular meeting of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council today. The meeting was attended by Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Minister Birri, and members of the Executive and Shari'a Committees. The following statement was issued by the conferees:

The council members discussed reports on the current situation and the ongoing endeavors related to the presidential elections. They also discussed reports of the U.S.-Israeli intervention, thus obstructing the election session last Thursday, and decided the following:

One, the Council emphasizes its position, through its declared statement, on the issue of the elections, particularly the statement issued following its meeting on 13 July, stressing the need to adopt all measures to block any settlement that could keep the Lebanese Muslims as second-class citizens.

Two, the Council stresses that inter-Lebanese reconciliation will rescue Lebanon from its current impasse.

Parliamentarians Seek To End Election Deadlock
NC2408063088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Following an expanded parliamentary meeting yesterday, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni revealed that various ideas and views are being deliberated. He stated that the purpose of the current consultations is to exchange views in order to achieve the desired objective, which is nothing else but the salvation of Lebanon. Speaker al-Husayni stressed the need to hold the presidential election in a manner that will serve Lebanon's interests. [passage omitted]

A parliamentary source who participated in the meeting has noted that proposals and views on how the crisis might be ended were put forward during the meeting. These included a suggestion that a high-level parliamentary delegation should visit Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr; Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council; and Damascus to discuss ways of removing the presidential election issue from its present deadlock.

The conferees studied a proposal that the deputies attend a chamber election session and vote on two competing candidates, continue to vote in an elimination process, or cast blank votes, provided that this is done by secret ballot. According to a parliamentarian, the deputies believe that the important thing is to elect a president who will rule, regardless of whether he is a conciliatory one. The parliamentarian expects an expanded parliamentary meeting to be held tomorrow to discuss the proposals that have been put forward and to adopt one of them, if that is possible.

Birri Returns From Damascus, Meets With Junblatt

NC2208053588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri returned to Beirut from Damascus last night after meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon. While en route to Beirut, Minister Birri met with PSP leader Minister Walid Junblatt. They discussed the current developments in Lebanon. Sources close to the conferees said the two agreed on a number of firm steps that might be implemented within the next 48 hours.

Amal Chief Birri Warns of 'Military Flareup'

NC2408122588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has accused the Lebanese Forces and the Army of preparing for a military flareup timed to coincide with an Israeli action east of Sidon.

In an interview published today by the Abu Dhabi-based paper AL-ITTIHAD, Birri said: We are facing an Israeli-American onslaught that is as grave as the Israeli attack of 1982. He warned that the military situation in Beirut and some other areas could flare up if current political efforts fail and no agreement is reached on electing a president. He reiterated his call for national reconciliation to be achieved before a new president is elected.

Birri added: There will be no election before reconciliation. The other party must shoulder responsibility for the consequences. He said: If Al-Jumayyil forms a fait accompli government to supervise the elections, this will be tantamount to issuing a decree partitioning the country and breaking it up for good. He would then be the last president of a united Lebanon, Birri added.

Ja'ja' NEWSWEEK Interview Highlighted

NC2508094788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces' Information Department has distributed the following statement:

Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stressed his opposition to the candidacy of former President Sulayman Franjiyah for the post of president. He also has stressed his determination to continue to oppose this candidacy as long as it stands.

In an interview with NEWSWEEK magazine, Dr Ja'ja' expressed the belief that Syria will continue to support Franjiyah during the next few weeks, but that it ultimately will be compelled to withdraw this support because this is the only option open to it.

Regarding reports that the Lebanese Forces had put pressure on some deputies to prevent them from attending the parliamentary session, Dr Ja'ja' said: It is nonsense to speak about pressure on deputies at a time when the Syrian forces occupy 75 percent of Lebanese territory. He added: After the 1982 elections, the deputies who voted for Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil were prevented from returning to their homes, which were destroyed. The Lebanese Forces did not apply pressure. As a matter of fact, it is Syria which used pressure in West Beirut to force the deputies to attend the session. Moreover, 3 days before the session Speaker al-Husayni set the quorum at 53 deputies, while on 17 August, that is 1 day before the session, and under Syrian pressure, he reduced the quorum to 51 deputies.

Regarding the possibility of a military showdown with Syria or its allies, Dr Ja'ja' explained to NEWSWEEK that it is neither in Syria's nor its allies' interests to launch military attacks. Commenting on the recent clashes on the Suq al-Gharb front, Dr Ja'ja' explained that what happened in Suq al-Gharb is not a yardstick; it could be considered a limited setback, not a real confrontation.

On the relationship between the Lebanese Forces and the Lebanese Army, Dr Ja'ja' described it as excellent. In politics stands and situations can be amended. In fact, the misunderstanding between us was not that serious. There were personal differences over unimportant issues. As soon as an important issue arises, all minor differences disappear.

Asked whether he aspires to the post of president, Dr Ja'ja' said: Not now. Asked if he looks forward to becoming president at a later time, he said: Why not? If we want to practice politics, we must assume more sensitive and influential positions. Asked why he is not standing for president at this time, Dr Ja'ja' answered: Under the current balance of power, any president must deal with Syria and appease it. I am not prepared to do this. Under the current circumstances, there is no possible agreement with Syria because it does not want a solution in Lebanon.

Regarding what is being circulated among some diplomatic quarters that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made arithmetical mistakes with regard to the parliamentary session, Dr Ja'ja' said: The Syrians miscalculated the situation. They expected 53 or 55 deputies to attend. They missed by about 15 deputies.

Amal Information Official on 'Sabotage' Network

NC2408123388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] At a news conference held today at the Zifta Center, in the presence of lawyer Milhim Qansuh, the Amal Movement's information official in the South, the Amal security organ in the South presented members of a sabotage and agentry network working for Israeli

intelligence. The agents are Ahmad 'Abbas Ramadan, Muhammad 'Ali Ramadan, Zaynab Ramadan, Husayn Ramadan, Khalil Ramadan, and Hasan Ramadan, all of whom come from the town of Al-Rayhan in the Bint Jubayl district.

Qansuh stated: We present to our kinfolk a network of agents that has been working for Israeli intelligence. It has been established that this network was involved in acts of sabotage in the South and in Beirut at the behest of Israeli intelligence and a number of agents, in return for a handful of dollars.

Qansuh affirmed: We warn anyone who contemplates tying himself to the enemy in any way. The Amal Movement, which has taken upon itself to continue the resistance, liberate the South, and ensure the safety and security of our kinfolk, will be the watchful eye and the hand that will strike forcibly at all those who tamper with the security and safety of our kinfolk and who implement the enemy's goals of jeopardizing the resistance.

Fadlallah Renews Support for Khomeyni
LD2208211388 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 22, IRNA—On the occasion of the 1349th martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husayn (the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, SAW) hundreds of thousands of Muslims staged rallies in the Muslim-populated areas in Lebanon today. In their demonstrations, Lebanese Muslims carrying placards and pictures of Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, and Seyyed Musa Sadr, chanted slogans such as 'Our movement is like (Imam) Husayn's, our leader is Khomeyni', 'The U.S. is the great Satan', 'Every day is 'Ashura, every place is Karbala'.

The mourners also vowed to follow Imam Husayn's irreconcilable policy towards the unbelievers. Imam Husayn and 72 of his faithful supporters attained martyrdom in Karbala (now in Iraq) on Muhammad 10, in the year 60 lunar Hejira while fighting against the unbelievers.

In Beirut, city streets witnessed long lines of Shi'te mourners, extending kilometers. The walls of the city are covered with black flags (symbolizing mourning), and the whole city is grief-stricken. In a mourning ceremony held at Imam Reza (A.S.) Mosque in south Beirut, the audience listened to a speech by prominent Lebanese Alim Sayyid Husayn Fadlallah. Considering the role of Karbala incident as a determining one in the history of Islam, Fadlallah referred to its enlightening effects upon today's Muslim world. One of the things now synonymous to 'Ashura is the Islamic movement which reminds Muslims of Imam Husayn's [words indistinct], he said.

Fadlallah also renewed allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and stressed the importance of jihad (holy struggle) against oppressors, Zionism, and global arrogance, and the necessity to keep alive 'Ashura as the most fundamental factor for [words indistinct] victory over blasphemy. Like Imam Husayn, he said, Imam Khomeyni has firmly stood against world's aggressive powers, and has shown that by relying on the Islamic faith, Muslims can punish the enemies of Islam and foil their aggressive acts.

Referring to the Islamic Republic's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Fadlallah said the imam's consent was a realistic move because he said global arrogance and colonialists had become united to defeat the Islamic revolution. But the imam foiled these plots by his wise decision while reiterating the Islamic revolution's strategy against unbelief, said Fadlallah.

In Lebanon global arrogance is trying to bring to power a president who would support its interests and who would be against Islam, "just like the Arab reactionaries," he added. Fadlallah called upon Muslims to reconcile and counter plots of global arrogance and Zionism.

Fadlallah Interviewed on Gulf War, Iran
NC2408090388 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 19 Aug 88 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Shaykh Muhammad Huseyn Fadlallah, religious leader of Hizballah, by CUMHURIYET correspondent Michel Nawfal; date, place not given]

[Text] [Nawfal] How would you assess the sudden change in Iran's policy?

[Fadlallah] Imam Khomeyni's policy is the reason for the prolongation of the war. This is a policy which has used all political and security cracks [catlaklar] to ensure Iran's victory over Iraq. The Iranians believed that the deepening of those cracks would give Iran a better opportunity to maneuver. However, the extraordinary developments that suddenly occurred forced the United States to pursue a policy of friction with Iran. As a result of this policy, the United States found itself protecting all commercial shipping in the Gulf, clashing with Iran in the same region, and preventing Iran's oil sales to foreign countries. The downing of an Iranian airbus by the United States can be regarded as being a part of this policy.

Meanwhile, with a view to diverting attention from Iraq's use of chemical warfare, the United States maintained its political and military support for Iraq. This created significant advantages for Iraq in various fields. This political and military friction was also a part of the enhanced calm between the two superpowers, which was created by the detente between them.

These developments led to the view on the part of Iranian officials that the war was gradually becoming suicidal from the economic, military, and political standpoints. Otherwise, they would have been compelled to

clash with the United States and confront the world that is influenced by the U.S. campaign. In light of this, Iran's support for Resolution 598 can be regarded as a maneuver aimed at foiling the plans drawn up to destroy Iran from within its own borders on the pretext that it refused to agree to a cease-fire. Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 came as a surprise, because the plans drawn up to destroy the Iranian regime were based on the hypothesis that "Iran would never agree to Resolution 598."

The military and political role that was assigned to the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization is a clear indication of these plans. The Mojahedin were expected to enter Iran and create instability by organizing as an internal force. This would have spurred the opposition forces in Iran to take action. Therefore, looking at the developments from this viewpoint, we can describe Iran's move as a wise, courageous, and well prepared step, which has foiled a plot. We have observed the confusion it has created in the international arena.

[Nawfal] How would the change in Iran, which also includes a policy of opening up to the outside world, affect the Arab countries?

[Fadlallah] I believe that the Arabs will be confronted with many problems at various levels. During the time of the shah, the Gulf states maintained closer ties with Iran's policy than they did with the policy of the Arab world. Their policy until the beginning of the war was aimed at preserving harmony with Iran for the purpose of establishing a common front. When the war situation suddenly changed, these countries were confronted with new balances.

The Gulf states, the policies of which are deeply tied in with the United States, must take into consideration the possibility of a move toward normalization in U.S.-Iranian relations. It must not be forgotten that Iran will always be included in U.S. strategy, regardless of the kind of government that is in power in Tehran. Meanwhile, it is likely that a reconciliatory trend will be adopted in Saddam Husayn's policy in connection with Western interests in the Gulf region.

[Nawfal] Will the changes in Iran's policy weaken the militant Islamic trend?

[Fadlallah] The export of the Islamic revolution has been deformed as a result of a number of acts of violence such as kidnappings and explosions, which, it is claimed, have been provoked by Iran. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the question of spreading a revolution should not be equated with activities which hide the positive and negative aspects of the Islamic trends. There are other means of spreading a revolution. For example, through political criticism, which opens new avenues for the Islamic revolution and contributes toward the understanding of the Islamic phenomenon....

In the absence of opportunities for communal changes, the Muslims have to try and bring about reforms without closing the door on the changes that may occur in the future. A community can be changed by force if there is no other alternative. However, a gentle approach is best. I do not believe that Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire is directly linked with the question of spreading the revolution. Actually, the effort to spread the revolution can only be successful through the new horizons that will be created for it by the new agreements.

[Nawfal] Turkey is an important country in the Middle East. Furthermore, it has good relations with Iran and the Arab world. How do you assess Turkey's present role in the region and the role it will have in the future?

[Fadlallah] Anyone looking at Turkey's stand on the Iran-Iraq war would draw the conclusion that instead of adopting an effective political approach, that country has searched for balances which would safeguard its economy and security. Turkey's policy has never reached a level which would have allowed it to become a politically effective element in the region. This may be due to the Turkish authorities' effort to establish internal order and to the anxiety caused by the nature of Turkey's relations with the Western world. We should now closely observe the development of relations between Turkey and Iran and Turkey and Iraq. This is due to the fact that the termination of the war will force Iran, and probably Iraq as well, to focus attention on economic matters.

Developments in the aftermath of the war may remove the obstacles to Iran's relations with the Western world. This may significantly reduce the importance of Turkey's role in many fields, including economics and security.

'Violent' Clashes Between Israelis, Resistance

NC2408135488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from western Al-Biqa', the Israeli occupation forces and their agents today advanced into the area and reached as far as the outskirts of the town of Libbaya, where violent clashes are taking place with the resistance fighters. Various types of rockets and machineguns, field artillery, and helicopters are being used in the fighting.

2 Israelis Killed

NC2408135888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] The Israeli forces have been carrying out for some 2 hours now a military operation against the fundamentalists' centers in the township of Maydun in western Al-Biqa'. Our correspondent reports that so far two Israelis have been killed and another injured.

Clashes Detailed

NC2408191188 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 24 (AFP)—Five pro-Iranian militiamen were killed and six Israeli soldiers slightly wounded Wednesday as Israeli troops mounted an incursion into southern Lebanon, military officials here said. The casualties occurred as parachutists on a raid outside Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon clashed with fighters of the Hizballah militia near the village of Zillaya, the officials said. Five of the Israelis wounded rejoined their units after minor treatment while the sixth was taken to hospital, they said.

In south Lebanon, a Muslim fundamentalist source said the soldiers, backed by helicopters, were confronted by 100 members of the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Hizballah movement. The Islamic fighters fired SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles at Israeli helicopters that provided the advancing troops with cover, while the choppers opened fire on areas surrounding Zillaya as well as the nearby villages of Libbaya and Yuhmur, the source said. The clash left "several people dead and injured on both sides," the source said, adding that the Israeli casualties were evacuated by helicopter.

The Israeli army last month carried out a similar incursion into the sector surrounding Zillaya, six kilometres (four miles) from the "security zone," and in clashes with Islamic fighters killed their regional leader, Muhammad Bujays. The Islamic Resistance acknowledged later Wednesday that it suffered five casualties, but did not specify if they were killed. The group said 17 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded as they tried to set an ambush for the pro-Iranian fighters, who advanced from the rear and took them by surprise.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent at the scene said the clash lasted eight hours and confirmed that Israeli helicopters were used. The Lebanese Red Cross said at least three civilians were injured as the helicopters used heavy machine-guns and field artillery opened fire from Marj 'Uyun, inside the "security zone." The Islamic Resistance, which accused the Israeli army of using fragmentation bombs, said around 250 rounds of 155-mm and 175-mm shells fell around Zillaya and nearby villages in the southern Al-Biqa' Valley. It was unclear how many Israeli soldiers were involved in the incursion.

Israelis Search Ship; Gunboat Fires on Camp

NC2508091488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] An Israeli gunboat has intercepted and searched a merchant ship near the Al-Zahrani coast. Meanwhile, quoting a security source in Tyre, AFP reports that Palestinian fighters in Al-Rashidiyah camp traded fire with an Israeli gunboat this morning, forcing it to sail away.

No Injuries Reported

NC2508091588 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, Aug 25 (AFP)—An Israeli gunboat cruising off the south Lebanon coast traded fire at dawn Thursday with Palestinian fighters in the Al-Rashidiyah camp south of here, Lebanese police said. The 15-minute exchange caused no injuries, police said, adding that the incident was the first of its kind in several months. The Israeli gunboat fired several flares over the camp and its vicinity while the Palestinian combatants fired their heavy artillery at the vessel, police said.

Lebanese security sources said meanwhile that the Israeli gunboat had earlier intercepted a rubber dinghy with Palestinian fighters aboard off the coast of Tyre. The report could not be confirmed by Palestinian sources. [passage omitted]

'Awn Refutes Allegations Against Army

NC2408140788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has called on all those who want to save the homeland to cooperate in holding the session for electing a new president before 23 September. Speaking at a military meeting held this morning and attended by members of the Military Council; the deputy chiefs of staff; the commanders of regions, brigades, and military colleges; and senior Army commanders, Gen 'Awn said that the Army had pledged to secure the freedom of the deputies but did not pledge to secure the quorum which is the affair of each deputy.

He revealed that the Army Command had contacted a number of deputies and offered to protect and escort them if they wanted, but they refused. He said: Had the Arny been given full responsibility for the 18 August session, then no one would have complained of breaches in his security, pressure on his freedom, or apprehension over his family and possessions. He noted that the Army completely understands the dimensions and pitfalls of the current stage, and that it will not act as a smoke-screen for those who want to cover up any regional or international imbalance or the real crisis, which has regional and international dimensions. He added that the Army will not allow anyone to force it to commit any mistake that will push the homeland to the abyss. It will also not allow the homeland to be sacrificed on the altar of the ambitious and plotting, or to let the homeland be turned into a consolation prize for anyone inside or outside the country.

Amal, Hizballah Clash During Ashura Rites

NC2308054088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Celebrations marking the Ashura anniversary yesterday brought the Amal-Hizballah dispute to the surface once again. A clash in which machineguns were

used has reportedly taken place between the two sides during a huge demonstration in Ba'labakk. According to security sources, the Syrian occupation troops cordoned off the area and arrested a number of people.

In the southern suburb of Beirut, Hizballah demonstrators carried portraits of Iranian leaders and Imam Musa al-Sadr and placards denouncing Israel and its agents. The demonstrators indirectly attacked the Amal Movement. A group of demonstrators raised a bloodstained turban symbolizing Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim, a Hizballah leader who was assassinated at an Amal roadblock in the South in mid-August. [passage omitted]

Amal Source Denies Clashes With Palestinians

NC2308202188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A responsible source from the Amal branch in the South has denied the reports being carried by some radio stations in the eastern areas about clashes between Palestinians and Amal Movement members in the areas east of Sidon. The source declared that nothing is disturbing the peace in the area.

'Violent' Clashes in Mountain Areas Reported

NC2308140088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Violent clashes broke out along the Suq al-Gharb combat lines at 1545 today when the Army positions in Qurs al-Mudawwar came under shelling and rocket fire. Tanks, machineguns, and artillery pieces are being used in the fighting.

Fighting Stops

NC2308175988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The regime's Army flared up the security situation on the mountain combat lines today. The Army positions in Tallat al-Husn, Al-Khazzanat, and Suq al-Gharb shelled the opposite nationalist positions in Ra's al-Jabal, using mortars and heavy machinegun fire. The shelling also covered the Al-Karamah road. The Central Security Committee declared a cease-fire at 1610 but the Army did not abide by it and continued its shelling until 1630. Tension has abated and a state of extreme caution now prevails.

Booby-Trapped Car Investigations Reported

NC2308132488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] According to security sources in West Beirut, the Syrian intelligence organization had advance knowledge of the entry into the area of a number of booby-trapped cars from Sidon. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Syrian intelligence had received a report to this effect from certain pro-'Arafat Palestinians in the South. Investigations have revealed that the car which was discovered in the Al-Awza'i area had been chased by Syrian units which failed to catch it. The car driver managed to escape, having parked the car on the main road. Investigations also revealed that the car which exploded in Al-Rawshah last Sunday had come from the South. It is worth noting that Syrian intelligence is still trying to find out where it came from.

Resistance Operation Reported in South

NC2308101388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] According to a statement issued by the Lebanese Resistance Groups-Amal, a secret organization planted a highly explosive device on the triangle of the Al-Mansuri and Al-Burj positions at 0745 today. The device exploded as an enemy and agent patrol was passing in the area. The statement added that a vehicle was burned out and six agents fell in the operation. Immediately afterward, the enemy shelled the village of Kafr Tibnit.

Martyrs Battalion Claims Attack on Syrian Post

NC2308054588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] In a telephone call to Radio Free Lebanon, the Beirut Martyrs Battalion has claimed responsibility for an attack against a Syrian occupation position in Al-Barbir, near the 'Amudi center, last night.

Group Claims Attacks on Syrian Positions

NC2508081288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi forces of the 9 February Organization have claimed responsibility for the following military operations in West Beirut:

1. The detonation of an explosive charge near a Syrian occupation army position in Corniche al-Mazra'ah at midnight.

2. The detonation of an explosive charge near a Syrian occupation army position in Burj Abu Haydar at 0010 today, as a result of which three Syrian soldiers were injured.

3. A machinegun and handgrenade attack on a Syrian occupation army position in the Commodore area at 0015 today, in which two Syrian soldiers were wounded.

Briefs

New Romanian Ambassador

President Amin al-Jumayyil today received the credentials of new Romanian Ambassador to Lebanon Ion Poppa. [Text] [*NC2308160588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Aug 88*]

Al-Asad Receives Acting Lebanese Prime Minister
JN2408102888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] President Al-Asad received Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss at 1130 today. The conversation revolved around the Lebanese situation and current developments. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Dr al-Huss at 1030 today. The conversation revolved around the conditions in the Lebanese arena.

USSR Reportedly Refuses To Sell New Fighter
JN2408110788 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Until now, the Soviet Government is refusing to sell Syria the new and improved prototype of the developed fighter "MiG-29 Fulcrums" after the Syrian pilots have failed to fully understand the operations of the MiG-29 fighters, of which the Syrian Air Force received a squadron and of which two were destroyed during air practice.

Commentary Says 'Arafat in 'Service' of U.S.
JN2308214888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Palestine broadcast: Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: It is taken for granted that those who assume the PLO leadership should place the interests of the Palestinian people and their cause above all other considerations. Consequently, the relations they establish within Palestinian, Arab, and international frameworks must be founded on this basis. On the Palestinian level, they should achieve and maintain national unity. If they fail, they should, unregrettably, leave the place to others, because the national unity of our people is more valuable than any individual.

On the Arab level, there is no need for deep philosophy to understand things. Those who support our people and do not sell out our cause, and who are prepared to join us in the fight and sacrifice for the sake of our cause, are our brothers. But those who abandon and evade their responsibilities, and cooperate with and help our enemy against us, can be labeled neither as brothers nor as friends. My enemy's foe is my friend, and my enemy's friend is my foe. This is how our people understood things through all generations. So what kind of philosophy leads Yasir 'Arafat and his leadership to dialogue and alliance with Arabs who betrayed their Arabism and cooperated and dealt with the Zionist enemy, claiming that it is in the interest of the cause to do this sin—indeed, this shameful crime? On the international level, those who help us against our enemy are better than those who spare us their evil acts. Those who spare us their evil acts are better than those who help our enemy and ally themselves with it. How come, then, does 'Arafat ignore those who help us and run after our enemy's allies?

If 'Arafat is adopting a wrong policy on all these levels, then what is correct in his policy? Where will he lead us through such a policy? The youngest child taking part in the uprising of our people understands these things in a way contrary to 'Arafat's policy and methods. How can 'Arafat, then, be representative of our people's will and awareness? He is currently busy organizing an alliance with Mubarak, Saddam, and Israel's agents in Lebanon. He is preparing a sedition in the camps that would help these agents implement the enemy's plans. He is doing all this to prove to the United States that he is a good pupil in the service of U.S. imperialism and deserves a place beside Shamir. He is exactly like Al-Sadat, who tried to do the same in his dealings with Washington.

In effect, we do not need such good pupils in the service of Washington. We are sacrificing the souls of our sons for our freedom. Slavery is the same, whether to Israel or to the United States. We will not replace one slavery with another. We will not bite the hands of our beloved to satisfy our enemies. Far be that from our noble and great people.

Editorial Draws 'Arafat-Al-Sadat Parallel
PM2308132288 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Aug 88 p1

[Editorial: "'Arafat...in the Footsteps of Al-Sadat!"]

[Text] The dimensions and dangers of the deviationist 'Arafatist Palestinian Right's involvement in the biggest conspiracy against the Palestinian people and their just cause, the Arabs' prime cause, and the central point in their struggle against the Zionist enemy, are exposed day after day.

With the disclosure of the far right's latest treacherous document, which the Zionist enemy volunteered to reveal, new information on Israeli-'Arafatist contacts proves that the leader of the extremist approach has signed a written agreement emphasizing his commitment to hold direct bilateral negotiations with Israel and stipulating the elimination of the idea of convening an international conference on peace in the region as well as the deviationist Right's recognition of the legitimacy of Zionist settlements in the occupied [West] Bank and [Gaza] Strip.

In view of what has been leaked about secret agreements between the Zionist entity and the deviationist 'Arafatist clique and in view of the documents the deviationist clique releases in the Palestinian arena, it is crystal clear that the Abu Sharif-'Arafat document has laid down general outlines for the option of surrendering to the enemy's conditions for a settlement as well as the liquidation of the Palestinian cause by reactivating Part 2 of

the Camp David accords on so-called administrative autonomy. It is also clear that what has followed the document—which has placed the 'Arafatist clique in confrontation with the pan-Arab, struggle, national, Palestinian, option—only reflect the procedural form of the concept of the secret agreements concluded with the Zionist side via mediators and sponsors known for their suspect roles in Al-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem.

The suspect movements of the Palestinian rightist clique at this particular time are almost similar to the movements of the murdered Al-Sadat inasmuch as Al-Sadat exploited the October victory, turning it into a bargaining counter and negotiating over the Arab cause. Whereas 'Arafat's movements today are motivated by a illusion that the brilliant victories being achieved by the uprising against the Zionist enemy and its repressive war machine can be exploited.

'Arafat, who played the tunes of "Palestinian regionalism" to justify his liquidatory solution to the Zionist enemy, is forgetting or pretending to forget that there are fundamental differences between the two situations. This is because Al-Sadat made his moves in isolation from the masses' option and the will of the Egyptian masses and the Arab nation, but he could not finish the task of liquidating the Palestinian cause because neither he nor the rest of the Camp David parties are capable of doing so. 'Arafat is ignoring the fact that he does not represent the Palestinian masses and has no power to eliminate the uprising, bargain over it, or circumvent it. And he, 'Arafat, does not possess the cards that would qualify him to be an acceptable party in the negotiations sought by Israel, which is maneuvering now to exploit 'Arafatist enthusiasm at the surrendering tables to serve the scheme to end and abort the uprising. And 'Arafat is well aware of the fate of the traitor Al-Sadat.

Paper on Iraq's 'Suspect Moves' in Lebanon

JN2308090888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Alliance Is Becoming Clearer," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: U.S. diplomacy has made a large stride toward imposing its strategy—the Zionist enemy's strategy—in the region. Since the beginning of the current decade, the U.S. State Department's general [as heard] and Egyptian Minister of State Butrus Ghali, have indulged themselves in the happy hope of the birth of a new alliance in the region, and the achievement of the policy which Eisenhower could not achieve in the fifties. The Iraq-Iran war was the introduction to this. The destruction of Iraq is only the beginning of the serious U.S. action to declare the new alliance. On the pretext of this war, the renegade regime in Cairo met with the fascists in Baghdad. In light of this meeting, the Zionist-U.S. invasion of Lebanon took place, the agents' links with the Zionist invaders have become clear, and several pretexts were produced to adopt an open policy toward the Camp David regime in Egypt, and justify the crazy war which Saddam ignited to burn Iraq and the Gulf.

The story whose chapters have not yet been completed needs a new mechanism to make Israel a party to the U.S. alliance in the region without being opposed by the parties in Cairo, Baghdad, and all positions of apostacy on the Arab map. The completion of the story cannot take place by overlooking facts that were ignored by U.S. planners. The Palestinian uprising is a source of concern for parties to the U.S. alliance. The Arab citizens, whose feelings were roused by the uprising will come up with surprises that were predicted by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Syria's effective Arab role also constitutes a force and weight which have great impact on the region's decisions whether regarding war or peace.

In light of all this, the United States entrusted the parties to its alliance with the task of removing all obstacles threatening the U.S. plans and harboring an Arab future that is feared by the United States, Israel, and the capitals of the renegade regimes, Baghdad and Cairo. The suspect moves between Iraq's executioner and the enemies of Lebanon and its Arabism constitute one of the fronts chosen by the United States, which coordinated between its parties, to act as a mechanism against Lebanon and its independence, and against the security of Arab Syria.

As long as the U.S. objective behind this new alliance is to strike at every pan-Arab approach and fragment Arab ranks, then we have no doubt that the capitulators in the Palestinian side and the conspirators in the Lebanese side are natural parties to this alliance, whose parties and objectives have become clear. What remains is for this alliance to implement the order and the task assigned to it. The tragic fact is that the U.S. decision in the region derives strength from some Arab regimes and Israel at the same time. Despite this, the pretenders continue with their claims of being affiliated and faithful to the Arabs and Arabism and of working for the sake of their causes.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Urge Qandahar Residents To Flee

BK2408151388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Aug 24 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have asked residents of the southeastern city of Qandahar to evacuate the city ahead of a final offensive against Afghan government forces, sources here said Wednesday.

Mujahidin commanders have informed people in Qandahar through a public address system and through leaflets distributed at night that they must "quit the city as soon as possible," said sources in this Pakistani town close to the Afghan border.

The leaflets said: "as the last regime garrison remains in Qandahar, mujahidin have decided to launch their final assault."

The expected battle might result in destruction of houses in the vicinity of the regime's installations, therefore "the residents are requested to leave their homes immediately." They said the time of the rebel attack was not disclosed but one resistance source said it was likely to be this week.

The decision to launch an offensive was made after the fall of the strategic Baba Wali Saheb District only eight kilometers north of Qandahar which was the second biggest city before Soviet troops invaded in 1979.

The capture followed a Soviet troop pullout from Qandahar in mid-August, the deadline set under the Geneva Accord for Moscow to withdraw half its estimated 115,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.

Resistance sources said mujahidin fighting to topple the Soviet-backed goverment of President Najibullah were consolidating their position in Baba Wali Saheb, a mountainous area overlooking the city.

The sources, quoting a guerrilla commander in Qandahar, said mujahidin were able to move freely in 60 percent of the city and in the past two weeks 800 government troops had defected.

The government is in control only around the garrison of the second Afghan army corps, which would be the target of the planned offensive, they said.

The rebels were interdicting supplies by blocking the road to Kabul and Herat, they said.

Wakil Admits 'Mistakes' in War With Rebels

AU2408123488 Paris AFP in English 1226 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Oslo, Aug 24 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil on Wednesday admitted that "certain mistakes" by his government had prolonged and intensified the war with Afghani rebels.

Speaking at a press conference here, Mr. Wakil said "if certain mistakes were not committed by us, the war might not have lasted as long" and caused so much damage.

One such "mistake", he said was to "monopolize political power" and to exclude the political opposition from participation in development of the country.

Mr. Wakil also accused Pakistan of not adhering to the Geneva peace agreement, preventing Afghan refugees from returning home, and continuing its support of the guerrillas.

He said the guerrillas were continuing the war because killing and fighting has become their profession, he said.

Mr. Wakil is in Oslo as a delegate to an international conference on refugees and displaced persons in Southern Africa, held by the Organization for African Unity (OAU) and United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees.

His presence here has been met with sharp criticism from groups in Norway that support the Afghani rebel movement.

4 Killed, 15 Wounded as Bus Hits Mine

LD2408171388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] The BIA military section reports that a bus which left Qarghah'i, Laghman Province, for Kabul yesterday hit a mine at Sar Kana Ow Baba area. The mine was planted by the subversive extermists. As many as 4 passengers were martyred and 15 others were injured. The injured were rushed to hospital where they received treatment.

'Heavy Losses' Inflicted on 'Extremists'

LD2408180888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Continuing their task of crushing the warmongering and extremist groups and restoring peace and security in the country, our armed forces recently inflicted crushing blows on the enemies of peace and calm in Konarha Province. As a result, the extremists suffered heavy losses.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that armed forces personnel based in Konarha Province, who enjoy the all-round support of the people, recently killed 67 members of the armed warmongering groups and seriously injured another 69 during mopping-up operations.

During this operation 25 supply vehicles containing 100 rockets, 5 recoilless guns, 1 missile launcher, and 1 ZK-1 [not further identified] were destroyed and several hide-outs were eliminated.

Another report from Konduz notes that a 5-man terrorist group attached to the extremist subversive groups was crushed yesterday by the armed forces.

During this operation in Chardara District, Konduz Province, the armed forces seized 30 rocket launchers, 1,000 rounds of ammunition for light weapons, several hand grenades and 2 motor vehicles.

According to another report, a mass meeting was held today in Chardara District, Konduz Province, to mark the crushing the criminal and plundering groups.

At this meeting Major General Muhammad Joma Achak, general commander of operation in the northern region; and Abdullah Faqirzada, governor of Konduz, spoke about the work and activities of the armed forces aimed at restoring peace and security in this province.

A number of the elders and chiefs of Chardara District then spoke on behalf of the others, and they promised full cooperation in the restoration of peace and security in their regions.

Rebel Groups Go Over To Government Side
LD2408210288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpts] A 100-man group, led by Gholam Haydar, who had been fighting the government, came over yesterday to the side of the national reconciliation policy in the environs of Jowzjan Province, bringing with them their weapons and ammunition. [passage omitted]

This group handed over to the country's security forces 1 72mm artillery, 1 mortar, 4 rocket launchers, 45 Kalashnikovs, 10 DShK's, 3 light machineguns together with thousands of rounds of ammunition for various weapons.

According to another report a 60-man armed group, led by Pahlawan Shamsuddin, who had been fighting the government, came over to the side of the national reconciliation policy yesterday in Qeysar District, Faryab Province.

According to this BIA report this group handed over to the security forces 1 mortar, 1 recoilless gun, 1 heavy machinegun, 1 rocket launcher, 56 Kalashnikovs, thousands of rounds of ammunition for various weapons, and 100 horses. During an interview the ringleader of this group pledged to fight decisively to restore peace and security in the country and to defend of the people, homeland, and revolution.

80 Nangarhar Youths Enlist in Military
LD2508204688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Youth continue to join the ranks of the armed forces. Yesterday 80 youths of Dowr Baba Subdistrict, Shenwar District, Nangarhar Province, voluntarily reported to the subdistrict's military commissariat. After enlisting they left for various units and companies of the armed forces. [passage omitted]

Sharq, Wakil Send Romania National Day Message
LD2508063688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 24, Bakhtar—Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister and 'Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan sent congratulatory messages to their Romanian counterparts on the occasion of 44th anniversary of national day of Romania.

The messages wished successes to the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Romania for the further progress of that country.

Mangal Receives Ghanaian Peace Delegation
LD2508063988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug 24, BAKHTAR—Sarwaw Mangal, deputy prime minister and chairman of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation (PSFO) of Afghanistan met in his office today with the high-ranking delegation of peace and solidarity council of Ghana headed by Addo Aikins chairman of the Appellate Court of that country.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest were discussed.

The Ghanian delegation who was here at the invitation of the PSFO, left Kabul for home today.

The leadership delegation of PSFO saw off the guest delegation at the Kabul International Airport.

Bangladesh

Deputy Prime Minister Unhurt in Plane Accident
BK2508021288 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Shah Moazzam Hussain [deputy prime minister] escaped unhurt when his transport aircraft in which he was traveling met with an accident at an airstrip in Bogra before taking off yesterday afternoon [24 August]. According to district administration sources, a motor driver was killed when the seven-seater aircraft hit a [word indistinct] jeep belonging to the [word indistinct] which was parked near the runway. The aircraft was damaged, but the deputy prime minister, two pilots, and four other people on board the aircraft were unhurt and safe.

India

60 Injured in Srinagar Clashes; Army on Alert

BK2508034988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, over 60 people were injured in renewed group clashes in downtown Srinagar late last night. Groups of miscreants ransacked shops and attempted to set on fire some shops. Police burst tear gas shells and fired several rounds to bring the situation under control.

An official spokesman told our correspondent a short while ago that curfew has been relaxed for 5 hours from 0500 this morning in the interior areas of Srinagar City. He said the situation is well under control. An already reported curfew in the civil line areas was lifted yesterday.

While patrolling by paramilitary forces and the state police is on, the administration has alerted the Army as well.

Curfew Relaxed

BK2508081188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In downtown Srinagar, curfew has been relaxed for an unspecified period following improvement in the situation. The All India Radio Srinagar correspondent says in most parts of Civil Lines areas life has returned to normal and shops and business establishments are open as usual. Curfew was lifted in these areas yesterday.

The state government has termed the report of looting and a large number of people being injured yesterday as baseless. An official spokesman said only few persons, including a DSP [Deputy Superintendent of Police], were injured in some incidents of stone throwing.

The spokesman said the situation is well under control and no report of any untoward incident was received during the night.

Police Kill 1 'Terrorist' in Punjab, Arrest 2

BK2408161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, one terrorist was killed in an encounter with the police party in Khaova area of Amritsar District last night. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from him. The terrorist gunned down three inmates of a house last night in Amritsar District.

Meanwhile, two terrorists have been arrested by the police after a brief encounter in Kapurthala District.

2 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK2508053088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down two persons and seriously injured another two in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, a terrorist shot dead a shopkeeper, Kundan Singh, in village Cheetha and a farmer in village Imamalian. In Jullundur District, terrorists intruded into the house of a teacher in village Rajpura and opened fire, injuring the teacher and his wife.

Naval Aircraft Fires at Boats; Tamils Killed

BK2508052288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Several Tamil militants were killed when a naval aircraft fired at six high speed boats carrying them in the Palk Bay off Talaimannar on Monday [22 August]. According to PKF sources, the naval aircraft opened fire when the boats ignored warning shots.

AFP Details Incident

BK2408162288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP)—An unknown number of people were killed when an Indian naval aircraft fired on half a dozen boats manned by Sri Lankan Tamil rebels in Palk Bay, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday [24 August].

Defence Ministry sources quoted by PTI here said the plane, "Alize," opened up after the boats' crews ignored warning shots some 20 miles (32 kilometres) off Talaimannar on Sri Lanka's northeast coast Monday.

Several of the rebels were killed and the boats damaged, the sources reportedly said Wednesday, without giving details.

The bay is a part of the narrow Palk Strait which divides southern India and Sri Lanka, and has been a traditional crossing point for rebels wanting to reach the sanctuary of the predominantly Tamil Indian state of Tamil Nadu. [passage omitted]

Gujarat Town Under Curfew Following Clashes

BK2508071188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] A 48-hour curfew was imposed in Kheralu Town in north Gujarat from 1900 last night following group clashes during a Muharram procession. Police burst tear gas shells and fired some rounds to disperse the groups indulging in heavy stone throwing. Official reports say no one was injured in the firing. Seventeen persons have been arrested by the police.

Aftershock of 'Mild Intensity' at Nepal Border

BK2408163288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] An aftershock of mild intensity was recorded by the seismograph at the Delhi observatory at 1527 [0957 GMT] this afternoon. The epicenter was in the India-Nepal border and it had a magnitude of 4.4 on the Richter scale.

Mild Quake in Bihar; Nepal Death Toll 600

BK2508034588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Mild earth tremors were felt again yesterday in Darbhanga and Madhubani in Bihar. This was the second time the tremors were felt after Sunday's major earthquake. A report from Darbhanga said the panic-stricken people rushed out of their houses, but heaved a sigh of relief when the tremor proved to be a mild one.

A Red Cross official said in Darbhanga yesterday that all the bodies trapped under the debris in different areas of Darbhanga District have been extricated. He said some of the houses were dangerously damaged.

Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations are continuing on a massive scale in the earthquake-hit areas of the state. The Army is assisting the civil administration in the operation. It is reported that rail and road communications are functioning normally and long-distance telecommunications are now fully operational. Essential commodities and medicines are available in sufficient quantities.

The health minister, Mr Motilal Vora, who is now in Bihar at the instance of the prime minister, again toured the districts of Darbhanga, Monghyr, and Madhubani to supervise the relief operations.

According to latest information reaching Kathmandu, the death toll in last Sunday's earthquake has gone up to 600. Nearly 1,000 persons are injured, 300 of them seriously. Our Kathmandu correspondent Sushil Chopra reports that information about the loss of life and property from many remote hilly areas is yet to reach the capital.

Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations have been taken up on a massive scale. Hundreds of families rendered homeless are being provided shelter in school buildings and tents. Our correspondent says many countries, including India, have offered assistance to Nepal in providing relief and rehabilitation to the earthquake victims.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs for Geneva

LD2408102588 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—An Iranian Foreign Ministry Delegation, including political and legal experts, left here for Geneva today to take part in the discussions on the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. Foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq are to debate implementation of Resolution 598 under the auspices of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the U.N. Office in Geneva. Iran accepted the resolution on July 18 and a ceasefire went into effect on Saturday August 19.

Velayati Speaks at Airport

LD2408173988 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a high-ranking delegation departed for Geneva Wednesday evening to participate in the U.N.- sponsored Iran-Iraq peace talks. Peace talks between Iran and Iraq will start in Geneva Thursday in the framework of the Security Council Resolution 598 and U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan. The talks will be held under the supervision of the U.N. secretary-general.

Prior to his departure, Velayati told IRNA at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport that his talks in Geneva will focus on the enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598 on the basis of the U.N. chief's implementation plan. He made it clear that Iran will neither put forth any pre-condition nor will accept any pre-condition by the other side. On the role the U.N. chief can play in the Geneva talks, Velayati said the mandate the Security Council has given to Perez de Cuellar to implement Resolution 598 is acceptable to the Islamic Republic.

Velayati said he had informed the U.N. secretary-general of the Baghdad regime's recent military moves on the battlefields, hoping that [Perez] de Cuellar would see to the reports within the framework of his legal duties.

Earlier this week, two other Iranian delegations had left for Geneva to make necessary arrangements for Iran-Iraq peace talks. Officials accompanying Velayati to Geneva include Justice Minister Hasan Habibi, deputy to acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief and member of Majlis (parliament) Defence Committee Hasan Ruhani, deputy prime minister for legal affairs Ayatollah Mohajerani, presidential advisor Mohammad Honardust, Sadreddin Sadr from the Red Crescent Society and representatives from the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Perez de Cuellar Role Noted

NC2508050388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Foreign Minister Mr Velayati arrived in Geneva this morning at the head of an expert-political delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in the talks concerning the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. According to this report, our foreign minister will meet and talk with UN Secretary General Javier Perez

de Cuellar before participating in the Iran-Iraq talks, which are to commence under the supervision of the UN secretary general this afternoon.

Before leaving for Geneva yesterday, Mr Velayati spoke to our correspondent. Commenting on the UN Secretary general's role in these talks, he recalled: We support the duty which the UN Security Council has assigned to the secretary general with regard to the implementation of Resolution 598. We have put forward no preconditions for the talks nor do we accept any preconditions from the other side.

The Geneva talks is the second phase in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598, which are to begin this afternoon between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq and under the supervision of the UN secretary general. A report dispatched by a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Geneva states that almost 500 reporters have gathered in Geneva from all parts of the world to cover these talks. The report adds that the UN secretary general, who arrived in Geneva before the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, has commenced his primary talks and consultations with UN experts in order to prepare the agenda.

Also, an IRNA report states that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, who is heading Iraq's official delegation to the Geneva talks, arrived in Geneva last night. Reports state that when talking to correspondents at the airport after his arrival, he did not respond to a REUTERS correspondent, who had asked him twice why Iraq had started the war.

Velayati Arrives

LD2508061188 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 25, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here this morning for direct peace talks with his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz later today. He told reporters upon arrival that Iran was ready to continue cooperation "to achieve a comprehensive, just, honorable and durable settlement." Velayati regretted Iraq's resort to delayed tactics in the course of the U.N.-sponsored talks in New York to establish cease-fire earlier this month following Iran's unconditional acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598. This Iraqi policy, Velayati said, was coupled with military aggression identical to that Iraq launched against Iran on Sept. 22 1980.

The foreign minister added that Iraq had failed in its fresh mischiveous attempts thanks to the vigilant resistance of Iranian nation and the ceaseless efforts of the U.N. secretary general which also recieved the backing of the Security Council. He described the supervision of the UNIIMOG (U.N. Iran- Iraq Military Observer Group) team on the cease-fire which went into effect Aug. 20 as successful despite violations by the Iraqi side. "We can say that, in general, observance of the cease-fire has been successful" he said. He also expressed hope that Iraq would stop its obstructionist policy in the future negotiations. It is only in this case that one could be optimistic towards lasting peace in the region, he noted.

The foreign minister of Iran and Iraq are scheduled to hold separate talks with Perez de Cuellar this morning and later in the evening sit for direct talks after a press conference by the U.N. chief. The Iraqi delegation led by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here Wednesday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Forces Remaining at Front

LD2508112488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majlis, this morning visited the 15 Khordad Dam, which is being constructed in order to provide drinking water for the people of Qom. During this visit, which was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Sane'i, the imam's representative in the 15 Khordad Foundation, the officials in charge of the construction of this dam presented the necessary explanations to the acting commander in chief.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, after inspecting the dam, in an interview with our correspondent said: The construction of this dam has great importance in cultural, humanistic, and historical terms. If Qom is not developed, this will be seen as ungratefulness to its people. Therefore, the officials must act more promptly in the construction of this dam. In reply to the question posed by our correspondent in connection with the recent move of the regime ruling Iraq, the acting commander in chief said: This act of the Iraqi regime is foolish. They were seeking an excuse, and these acts are mere pretentions, which we consider part of the usual excuses of the Iraqi regime. Immediately after we accepted Resolution 598, the Iraqis began their acts of disruption. These recent problems are to be resolved by the UN observers in the region.

In connection with the prospects of the forthcoming Geneva negotiations, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are serious about obtaining peace, and the Iraqi regime has no choice but peace. However, Iraq obstructs the peace efforts through the instigation of others. We must preserve our power, and our forces must remain at the fronts so that the Iraqi regime is forced to accept peace. If the Iraqi regime feels that we have become complacent in war affairs, it will obstruct the process of establishing peace.

POW Affairs Official on Exchange With Iraq

LD2408173588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] On the occasion of 11 Moharram [24 August], the day for praising our country's POW's and those missing-in-action, the head of the office responsible for the affairs of Iranian POW's and MIA's in an interview today with our reporter gave some details about the exchange of Iranian and Iraqi POW's in accordance with the third clause of Resolution 598. Concerning the

number of Iranian POW's in Iraq, he said: From the start of the imposed war up to the Karbala'-4 operations, about 13,000 of our POW's were registered and began to correspond with their families.

Musavi Addresses Cabinet on POW's
LD2408140088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] On the Day of the Captured and Missing, a detailed report on the condition of the troops captured and missing in the imposed war was discussed at this morning's cabinet meeting. The government praised these troops and their families. According to our correspondent's report, Prime Minister Musavi stated at this morning's meeting that our nation is proud of its brave POW's. We always have been ready to give a well-deserved extensive welcome to our captured children. The prime minister added that the resistance and patience of the families of the martyrs, captured, and missing always has been a cause for pride for the Islamic republic. We all must be grateful to these families and their children for their sacrifices and selflessness.

Also at the meeting, the plan and budget minister informed the cabinet about a report compiled in connection with the agricultural statistics program. He stated that on 27 August, Agriculture and Government Day, which is the first day of Government Week, this plan will be implemented by the Plan and Budget Ministry throughout the country and in all urban and rural areas. He added that 25,000 have been mobilized for the execution of this program and that government bodies will cooperate fully in this task. The Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development and of Construction Jihad will have operational roles.

Khamene'i Comments on Reconstruction
LD2408131988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, this morning attended a meeting of hundreds of barricadeless barricade- makers [as heard] at the Karbala' logistics, engineering, and combat base of the reconstruction jihad. In a speech he thanked them for their efforts during the imposed war and said: During the 8 years that it has been involved in the imposed war, the reconstruction jihad has shown that it is a good result of the Islamic revolution. Moreover, its existence is essential for this revolution's consolidation.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman noted the important role the jihad can play in the country's reconstruction and added: In the country's reconstruction program, extensive planning must be done, and all the people's abilities must be utilized for this task. The Supreme Defense Council chairman, on the occasion of the Day of the Captured and Missing, expressed optimism that these people should return to their families as quickly as possible. Mr Khamene'i also said: The UN secretary general, the international bodies, and the peacekeeping forces must confront bullying and thuggery. The Iranian nation has showed that it will not accept any kind of bullying. The Supreme Defense Council chairman noted the recent mischief of the regime ruling Iraq and again asked all the country's Armed Forces, including the basij, army, and IGRC, to maintain their vigilance to confront any possible mischief by the enemy.

Turkish Delegation Accuses Iraq of Gas Warfare
LD2408213488 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Owing to the recent extensive air and ground aggressions of the Iraqi regime's forces against the Kurdish inhabited regions of that country, a spokesman of Iraqi Kurdestan's Democratic Party, KDP, announced that the Kurdish strugglers have called for the UN's assistance demanding that organization's interference for putting an end to the Saddam regime's mass killings in Iraq. The spokesman added that the Saddam regime's forces extensively attacked the bases of the Iraqi KDP last Saturday in (?a region near) the Iranian border. Iraqi fighter planes bombed eight villages, said the spokesman, as a result of which a great number of the people were either killed or injured.

Meanwhile, a Turkish parliamentary delegation stressed that in its attack against the Kurdish inhabited regions in north Iraq, the Iraqi regime has deployed chemical weapons. The delegation added that the effects of poisonous gases deployed by the Iraqi Army has destroyed the houses, farms, and [word indistinct] in the border regions of the Turkish territory. Members of the said delegation who have visited the southeastern border of Turkey near (?Shamadirin) city, said that despite Iraq's denial, they have observed some evidence in relation to the deployment of chemical weapons. Among the events, mention can be made to the annihilation of flowers, plants, and [word indistinct] as a result of gas leakage.

Gorgan Combatants Depart for South, West Borders
LD2408173888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] A group of combat-specialist forces from Gorgan departed this morning from Aliabad-e [name indistinct] for the southern and western borders of our country in order to joint other Islamic combatants.

Kurd Hanged for 1979 Paveh 'Massacre'
LD2408165588 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 24 Aug 88

["Terrorist Hanged"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 24, IRNA—A member of the outlawed Kurdistan Democratic Party (in Iran) who was involved in the massacre of people in Paveh town on 17

August, 1979, was executed Monday. Yar Ahmad Hoseyni was hanged in public following a verdict issued earlier by judiciary officials in Uramanat region.

KEYHAN Describes Latest Reports on Downed Airbus
PM2408104588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Aug 88 p 16

[Text] Human error, technological mistake, or bullying and crime? Which one of these was responsible for the shooting down 40 days ago of an Iranian Airbus with 290 people on board? The United States so far has given many replies to these questions, but the latest answer is that human error was responsible. Forty days have passed since the shooting down of the passenger airliner by U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and the martyrdom of its 290 passengers. During this time, the intensity of the incident has cooled down somewhat due to other events. Nonetheless, world public opinion is waiting for a final verdict from the investigations on the issue. Free- thinking international opinion is still asking the United States questions about the real reasons behind shooting down the Airbus, and the United States so far has avoided answering these questions.

During these 40 days, the United States has used its propaganda machine and its political power to deny responsibility for this crime. But world public opinion has seen behind the curtain of the aggressors' propaganda ploys and the contradictions in statements made by U.S. officials, and has found out that this disaster, like many others before it, was motivated by with purely political aims. Many independent international circles, some countries, regional organizations, and political forums have expressed this view. At the same time, international bodies such as the UN Security Council and ICAO, [International Civil Aviation Organization] which is connected to the United Nations, limited their comments to condolences to the families of those on board, thereby creating many ways for the United States to use "but's" and "if's" in the investigations.

This disaster has had a huge effect on the country, creating a wave of hatred against the United States and imperialism. Even people who were unconcerned and neutral were forced to take a serious stance on this issue. The real reason for this is the widespread effects of the disaster—it had much more of a human side than a political one. Of course, people will not forget the political side of the coin.

Without a doubt, the disaster was overshadowed by the political events of this past month. These events included Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, the 20-day diplomatic war between Iran and Iraq, the announcement of a date for the cease-fire, other events with regard to a peace between Iran and Iraq, and other political events and provocations occurring in neighboring countries, such as the assassination of Pakistan's Shi'ite leader. These events diverted the world's public opinion away from the great tragedy of the Airbus. This is why it has to be stressed that investigations into the issue must not be forgotten. This is the wish of the Iranian people and those in the world who seek justice. It is a right cause and must be respected.

A committee was formed in Iran to look into the shooting down of the Airbus immediately after the event. Mahmud Haj Qasemi, the head of this committee, talked about the two main axes upon which the committee has based its work. He said: Following the announcement of the missile attack, a group of aircraft and aviation technicians left for the area to gather adequate information. The results of their findings indicate that all three elements of flight—machine, human, and atmospheric—were in good order. The plane was completely okay, the pilot was in good shape, the flight was undertaken within the boundaries of international aviation rules, there were no technical problems within the plane itself, and weather conditions were good. Keeping in mind these findings, we believe there was no excuse for the attack on the airliner. The final report on the technological aspects and the truth about the tragedy has been completed and will be relayed by officials.

The head of the committee responsible for investigating the shooting down of the Airbus continued the interview by commenting on the work done on an international level with regard to the tragedy. He said: At Iran's request, ICAO held an emergency session in which an Iranian delegation participated. The delegation's report asked the commission:

1. To condemn the United States.

2. That new international decisions be reached to prevent this sort of incident's ever happening again. 3. That the responsibilities of the ICAO member countries be defined when international rules are broken.

After hearing our delegation's report and that of the United States, the ICAO condemned the shooting down of the Airbus and sent a team of experts to Iran, Dubayy, and Abu Dhabi to carry out further investigations. Their work goes on. We intend to follow the findings of the group at the next ICAO meeting next month to defend our rights in this matter. Haj Qasemi added: During this time, several organizations such as the International Airline Pilots' Association have expressed their condolences. At the moment, we are waiting for the results of the commission's findings; half of what direction we decide to take will depend on the these results.

The black box recorder containing the plane's flight information still remains on the floor of the Persian Gulf. Several teams from the civil aviation organization, the oil company, and the Navy have used all their equipment to find the box, but this has so far been fruitless.

Eng Mohammad Reza Majidi, managing director of the Islamic Republic Airlines, said about the black box: These teams have searched in a radius of 150 square km

to find the black box, keeping in mind how far away the plane pieces being found. Both a frequency-detecting machine and ships used for oil drilling have been used for this. After a few days, for peace of mind, a machine was brought from England, but it produced no results.

Majidi says it is unclear why the black box has not been found. He added: This box is made in such a way that wherever it is, it broadcasts signals. In all the searching, no signal was heard. Now, the lifetime of its flight time recorder battery also has expired, so it will no longer be producing signals. Haj Qasemi commented on the signals and the chances of finding the box: The search ship is in port now for engine repairs, but even during the last few days of the search, the signals had stopped. This search ship has a machine that detects all objects more than 60 cm in diameter within a 1 km radius.

Eng Ra'nai-far, head of Iranian civil aviation, added: The ICAO suggested a French company, which wrote that it was willing to search for the black box. Civil aviation wrote back and asked them what type of help they were willing to offer and what the cost would be. So far, there has been no reply. These negotiations should take no longer than 1 month, and after that the search will continue.

From the beginning, the United States has had varying reactions which have been sometimes contradictory to the issue. The first reaction was that the "Vincennes" mistook the airliner for a jet fighter. This claim resulted in many questions on an international level. The mass media got busy in this regard and by creating a series of vague assumptions, tried to deviate world public opinion from the main direction of the news. The claim was discounted right from the start by independent experts who said that the sophisticated computer and communications on the "Vincennes" would have made it impossible for the ship to make such a mistake.

Experts following the incident believe that the U.S. claim has endangered the American technological position. They say this issue raises questions about one side of U.S. technology that would be endangered in countries that bought things from it. This was why the United States changed its stance, and why new reasons for the incident were announced.

The United States mentions the following points in its latest positions:

1. The plane's descending motion;.

2. The fact that the plane was outside the international air corridor;

3. The broadcast of mixed military and civilian signals from the aircraft;

4. The aircraft ignored the warnings of the U.S. ship.

The first American excuse was quickly denied. It was proven that the aircraft was gaining height from 12,000 to 14,000 feet.

Eng Ra'nai-far, head of civil aviation, had this to say about the second American excuse: According to the map, the international air corridor has changing borders for about 10 miles on either side of the main line. The plane was flying directly above the main corridor and even after it was hit, it came down right in the middle of the corridor. This has been clarified by geography experts, so the U.S. claim is totally false.

Eng Majidi, head of Islamic Republic Airlines, denies the third claim. The plane was in touch with the control tower the whole time, from the minute it got permission to take off to the takeoff itself. This conversation was heard on American radar [as published] and by the U.S. fleet. On the other hand, the frequency used by the plane to converse with the control tower indicates very clearly that the plane was a civilian craft.

The fourth U.S. claim on the plane's ignoring the warnings from the ship also has been denied. All the conversations recorded at the Bandar 'Abbas control tower, the Tehran control center, as well as the Abu Dhabi tower indicate that there was no warning from the Americans.

The head of civil aviation said in this connection: The latest findings indicate that the United States gave a warning to the plane at the same moment it fired the missile, or even after firing. This warning was given at 2 minutes and 41 seconds after the Airbus had gone through the Mobet spot. That was the second the plane was hit. He said this warning probably was given by the Americans to mislead the public.

Finally, following the denial of all these positions, the United States adopted the "human error" line. This was perhaps the most illogical stance of them all. The recognition of the plane by the sophisticated machinery on board the U.S. vessel and the human factor both decided that despite the fact that it was a civilian airliner, it should be fired upon. This is exactly why the attack was on purpose.

This latest position taken by the United States has amazed experts. How can the human factor, without any pretext, decide to launch an attack on an Iranian civilian aircraft? This is the question the Americans have to answer.

Forty days have passed since the tragedy. During this time, the United States has used everything in its power to put an end to the issue. The file of this tragedy, however, remains open for the eyes of world public opinion. People are asking themselves why the Americans made a fuss for months when the Soviets shot down a Korean passenger plane but now are trying to silence this latest incident. The last page in this particular file no doubt will be the first page of a new file on another crime that the United States will undertake.

Jet Repair Center Said Destroyed by Iraq

LD2408172688 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A report from inside our country indicates that in Iraq's last attacks during the closing days of war, a huge center for repairing jet engines was destroyed. This center had the latest computer equipment and other advanced facilities for repairing fighter-bombers. The jet repair center had been fully equipped over several years at a cost of $10 (?million), and it kept our air force from depending on foreign repair workshops.

Mirzadeh on Expanding Economic Ties With PRC

LD2508094288 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 25 Aug 88

["China To Cooperate in Post-War Reconstruction"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—A Chinese economic delegation currently here met with Deputy Prime Minister for Executive Affairs and the Iranian head of the Tehran-Beijing Economic Commission Hamid Mirzadeh here Wednesday afternoon. Mutual cooperation in world market were discussed and the Chinese delegation expressed interest in further expansion of cooperation in the fields of mines, energy, industries and livestock breeding.

Mirzadeh expressed the hope that the forthcoming fourth session of joint economic commission in Beijing will further consolidate bilateral relations. Mirzadeh told the Chinese delegation which arrived here last Thursday that in the light of existing economic and industrial potentials, Iran could expand its relations with friendly countries. He stressed that China could play a major role in this respect.

A member of the Chinese delegation Dr. Zhu Jianing who has visited several Iranian industries praised management of these units and steps taken for economic independence. He said undoubtedly the Iranian people will be able to reconstruct their country in a short period of time and turn it into a major industrial power in the near future.

Musavi Appoints Acting Commerce Minister

LD2508090588 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Thursday appointed Abdolhoseyn Vahaji as the acting minister of commerce, a post vacant ever since Musavi introduced his cabinet to the Majlis on July 21. Vahhaji has previously served in different capacities at the Ministry of Commerce including deputy minister. For sometime he was head of the Overseas Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari was the former minister of commerce.

30 Earthquakes Shake Garmsar Area

LD2408154688 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Semnan, Aug. 24, IRNA—Some 30 mild tremors shook the town of Garmsar in this eastern province from Tuesday night to Wednesday morning, the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University reported today. The institute said three quakes measuring 3.7, 4.2 and 3.8 degrees on the Richter scale had also shaken the town and several nearby villages from Monday night to Tuesday afternoon. The tremors caused no casualties but shattered windows of several houses in the town and blocked roads in some villages, said the institue.

Briefs

Ambassador to Uganda

On the Foreign Ministry's recommendation and with the approval of President Khamene'i, Mr Muhammad Sharif Mahdavi has been appointed ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Uganda. [Text] [*LD2508045488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 88*]

Pakistan

Investigation of Ziaul Haq Plane Crash Continues

BK2408132088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Bahawalpur, Pakistan, Aug 24 (AFP)—U.S. experts investigating the plane crash that killed President Mohammed Ziaul Haq are studying the possibility that an explosion occurred in the cockpit, sources close to the investigation said here Wednesday [24 August].

The experts, who are looking at the possibility of a major incident in the cockpit, are also checking whether toxic gas may have been released neutralizing the pilot and co-pilot, the sources said.

The Pakistan Army C-130 plane exploded and crashed shortly after take-off here on August 17, killing General Ziaul Haq, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, the head of the Pakistani Armed Forces and 27 others.

Pakistani experts here are certain sabotage was involved, the sources said.

The plane abruptly lost contact with the control tower here less than two minutes after take-off and crashed three or four minutes after leaving the airport, according to reports of the crash.

Diplomats in Islamabad said the plane must have exploded in mid-air, at least partially, because debris was scattered over several kilometers (miles).

An expert from Lockheed, the U.S. manufacturer of the C-130, said he had ruled out a possible mechanical fault. The plane had been outfitted for official trips and was considered a very safe aircraft.

The U.S. experts have carried out a simulation of the accident with a C-130 above the cotton fields where Gen. Ziaul Haq's plane crashed, the sources said.

U.S. and Pakistani investigators have collected relevant debris and some of them have already returned to Islamabad, the sources said. Some of the wreckage has been shipped to laboratories in Islamabad and the United States.

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has been briefed regularly on the investigation and a preliminary report will be presented to him shortly, official sources here said Wednesday.

U.S. experts studying the possibility of sabotage believe a bomb could have been set off by a change in altitude or by remote control, or it may have been home-made, the sources said.

They have ruled out a theory advanced by the local press that the plane's four motors were turned off suddenly by means of a satellite system.

Authorities have questioned local villagers and politicians, including Bahawalpur Mayor Faruq Azam, who presented crates of mangos to Gen. Ziaul Haq that were put into the plane just before take-off, a Karachi daily said Wednesday.

Villagers in Lalkamal, who said they had seen one or two mid-air explosions, have been questioned by military security but nobody was taken into custody, local military authorities said.

The presence of a black box, which is not required in Pakistan military aircraft, has not been confirmed, an expert said Wednesday.

Security forces were still guarding the site of the accident but cotton farmers have gone back to work in neighboring fields, witnesses said.

Most of the local press believe the Afghan secret service, the Khad, trained by the Soviet KGB, was reponsible for the crash.

Many Pakistani officials have also expressed this view.

Gen. Ziaul Haq was a firm supporter of the Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Some analysts also noted that a Shi'ite leader had been assassinated recently in Peshawar and did not rule out "an act of vengeance" against Gen. Ziaul Haq, who had been carrying out a Sunni Islamization program.

DAWN Editorial Views Ziaul Haq's Death

BK2408123188 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Having presided over the destiny of Pakistan for over eleven years, across violent upheavals in the region and political triumphs and trauma at home, General Ziaul Haq has died in a plane crash near Bahawalpur. Nobody else has ruled Pakistan for as long and with such tenacity, earning sympathy and praise from some quarters and evoking antipathy and scepticism in others. With him in the ill-fated C-130 were quite a few army officers, some belonging to the top brass, and the American Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Arnold Raphel. This bolt from the blue has left the nation in a state of shock and disbelief.

The tragedy will be universally mourned. In its first impact, it has, beside causing grief and distress, produced a benumbing effect. All the people have at the moment are confused thoughts about the meaning and implications of the sudden demise of an era. It should take some time before the serious issues can be rationally assessed and the options open can be realistically analysed. The dominant thought at present pertains to the sudden removal from the scene of President Ziaul Haq who had come to be identified with a complex of policies and attitudes and had evolved his own style of leadership, involving an uncommon mix of the khaki and the mufti, to steer the nation through some of the most stormy stretches in its forty one years of existence.

In his case the style assumed an importance all its own. A humble, unassuming and warm-hearted person, he put everyone he met at ease. The simplicity of his manner, indeed, contrasted sharply with the lofty bearing of some other ex-rulers of the country who were cast in the feudal mould. A devout Muslim, his passion for introducing Islam remained a constant feature of his rule. A mere novice in matters political and diplomatic in 1977, he was very quick on the uptake and came to demonstrate astounding insights into the mystifying arts of politics and diplomacy. He showed the capacity to create facts and take initiatives, sometimes controversial ones.

His shadow will continue to fall on our polity for quite some time. Indeed, Pakistan will find itself living with the political legacy left behind by him for many years to come. As time passes, assessments of the meaning of this legacy will be many and varied. But the lasting judgment will come from history which will look at the period which has just ended in a disinterested manner and without fear or favour.

In democratic societies where constitutionality is held sacrosanct and lapses from it are regarded as impermissible, the transition from one ruling party or group to another follows a predictable and time-honoured pattern.

In our particular context of political tentativeness and frequent violations of constitutional propriety, the question of succession at the highest level of government leadership has always posed difficult, often unnerving problems. In the

absence of an established tradition of smooth and orderly succession in power, resort has often been taken to extra-constitutional or arbitrary methods based on expediency or the will and ability of a coterie of power-seekers to force a governmental change of their choice in disregard of democratic norms and conventions.

It is reassuring that the issue of succession posed by President Ziaul Haq's sudden death has been resolved judiciously and in conformity with the relevant constitutional provisions which requires the Chairman of the Senate to step into fill the vacuum should one be created by the death, resignation, removal or disability of an imcumbent President. A potential crisis has thus been averted by Senate President Ghulam Ishaq Khan assuming the office of the President without any hitch, thereby ensuring the continuity of the constitutional order that was restored at the end of 1985 after nearly eight and half years of Martial Law rule.

From a historical perspective, the step marks a refreshing departure from the known pattern of succession which has subjected the nation to a series of jolts and debacles gravely impairing the prospects of a system of smooth transfer of power from one government to another each time the issue came up for decision. Starting with the summary dismissal of Khwaja Nazimuddin as Prime Minister of a democratic government by an autocratic Governor General in April 1953, there have been several tarnished landmarks of political and constitutional deviationism to remind us of our tortuous quest for a degree of institutional stability and orderliness.

There have [been] many dismal instances to recall—as when Ghulam Mohammad followed up his arbitrary and capricious April 1953 action with the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly itself and ruled the country by diktat with a handpicked government responsible to himself; or when Iskandar Mirza staged a palace coup and got himself appointed successor to Ghulam Mohammad, later on forcing the second Constituent Assembly to accept him as president as the prize for giving his assent to the 1956 Constituation; or when Ayub Khan, in collusion with Iskandar Mirza, seized power by a coup in October 1958 to prevent the election that was to be held a few months hence under the Constitution of 1956—a process which promised to strengthen the foundations of a constitutional order and a democratic system; or when Gen Ayub, faced with irresistible public agitation against his autocratic rule, tore up his own constitution and asked his protege, General Yahya Khan, to take over, instead of handing over power to the National Assembly Speaker which his own constitution prescribed.

Though under different circumstances, the last of the break in constitutional and democratic continuity came in the summer of 1977 when military intervention prevented the possibility of an agreed political settlement leading to fair and impartial elections. There may be more than one opinion on the potentialities of the situation existing then, but it is undeniable, on the authority of the major parties involved in the crucial negotiations at that time, that a political settlement, if it were allowed to be finalised and carried to its logical conclusion, could have avoided the long years of constitutional deviation that resulted from the controversial act of intervention.

The important thing for the present is that a potentially treacherous bend of the road has been successfully negotiated at a critical moment in the life of the nation and the much needed constitutional continuity has been ensured. This certainly bodes well for the on-going transition and sets a healthy precedent for the future in regard to succession in political and governmental leadership. A strong segment of political opinion has greeted the proclamation of Emergency and the setting up of an Emergency Council, an extra-constitutional mechanism, with scepticism. It will need statesmanship of a high order to address this problem and to reassure the doubters as to the bona fides of the interim Government's intentions in this matter.

The closing phase of President Ziaul Haq's rulership was characterised by a marked widening of the gulf that divided the regime from the political forces on the issue of keeping the parties out of the electoral process. The new Government will be putting the right foot forward if it enters into a dialogue with the political profession for the purpose of establishing mutual trust, restoring the inalienable right of the political parties to participate in the forthcoming elections and guaranteeing a smooth transition to representative rule. For their part, the political parties, too, must realise the risks inherent in the present delicate phase of our national life and show a spirit of accommodation which is so necessary to a peaceful advance towards the fulfillment of our democratic destiny.

Sri Lanka

5 LTTE Men Killed, 8 Wounded; 7 PKF Wounded

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[Text] Five LTTE men were killed and eight others injured in different encounters with the Peacekeeping Force in Vavuniya sector of northern Sri Lanka yesterday. Three militants were killed at Nittukkai Kulam, while two others were shot dead on the Vavuniya-Mannar Road. The PKF has also destroyed a concealed LTTE camp in the Nittukkai Kulam jungles and recovered a large quantity of supplies. Two militants were captured in Jaffna and Batticaloa sectors.

In other incidents, seven PKF soldiers were seriously wounded in mine explosions set off by LTTE in two villages in Jaffna and Vavuniya sectors.